



Princeton Alumni Association of Germany

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Princeton Regional Conference in London

By David T. Fisher '69

This year our normal Spring Get-Together was postponed because it would have conflicted with a regional conference that the university was planning to hold in London on the 20th and 21st of June.

Instead many members of the PAA of Germany accepted the university's invitation to come to London to experience a memorable weekend of receptions, lectures and discussions. The conference started off on Friday evening with a reception at the Hertford House introducing the university's plan to sustain and expand excellence in teaching and research and to increase the University's impact on a changing world. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$1.75 billion over the next five years. The campaign, bearing the name "Aspire: A

Plan for Princeton," will focus on a set of priorities that includes strengthening the core Princeton experience, providing unrestricted funds through the Annual Giving program and raising funds to enhance the University's capacities in the critical areas of engineering and the environment, the creative and performing arts, neuroscience, and national and global citizenship.

The conference continued the next day at Central Hall Westminster with lectures and discussions illustrating Princeton's excellence in these areas. Lectures by the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences, Michael Oppenheimer, by the Professor of Psychology and Co-Director of the Program in Neurosciences, Elizabeth Gould, and by Eric Schmidt '76, CEO of

Google, amply demonstrated in different ways Princeton's position at the forefront of scientific research. A fascinating panel discussion led by the Director of the Program in Theater and Dance, Michael Cadden, allayed any fears that one might have that the arts at Princeton would in any way be disadvantaged by an over-emphasis on the natural sciences.

As President Shirley Tilghman convincingly pointed out in her address to the conference, it is precisely Princeton's excellence in diversity that makes it such a special place. The current administration seems truly committed to doing everything possible to strengthen that diversity, in particular by increased support for international initiatives.



Internship at the Bundestag

By Philipp Beverunge '11



When most people think about politics, they think of results. Naturally, politicians, parties and coalitions are judged by the effectiveness and practicality of their respective implemented policies and laws. But what predates and enables the latter in the first place is discourse. We need discourse in order to determine a reasonable approach and to decide what should be agreed upon. What better place than the German Bundestag to get a first-hand insight into

the decision-making that influences the daily lives of 82 million Germans, myself included?

Granted, time has become a luxury nowadays. One can resort to the crucial excerpts on the *Tagesschau* and every now and then watch entire debates on some of the news channels. But taking the time and sitting down on one of the actual plenum visitor seats turns out to open up a different perspective. Engaging in critical analysis, one gets profoundly involved in a process of reasoning between voiced arguments, looking for potential compromises and filtering out the essential issues. Delighted, I found this to be just an extension of what Princetonians do on a daily basis.

What Princeton teaches us on an abstract level is to see connections. When I inventoried the most important general lessons I carried away after freshman year, interdisciplinary thinking ranked first, the Humanities Sequence not being the least cause for this. We try to see the world as an intertwined whole consisting of various fields that are related on many levels. This perspective proved to be equally applicable to my daily work at the SPD's foreign policy department: whether summarizing situations for my Referents such as the disparity between European and Chinese foreign policy with regards to Africa or conceptual ideas such as John McCain's proposed *League of Democracies*, I tried to see the ramification of political, social, economic

and not least of all philosophical components. By this point at the latest, one should have acquired a sense of the intricacies of policy-making.

Decisions in politics are often trade-offs. As much as we may strive for idealism, it is mathematically proven that the simultaneous existence of several factors that we deem desirable is impossible. But that does by no means imply that it is not worth trying to study the field's complexities or that there is no room for improvement. On the opposite: participation is a fascinating, engaging, if not indispensable process. This brings us back to discourse. Be it discussing issues with my Referents over lunch at the sushi restaurant around the corner or asking Samuel Nunn questions at a talk on nuclear disarmament, my five weeks at the Bundestag proved to be time well-spent. Results in politics are crucial, no question. But taking a look behind the scenes and getting to know well-qualified people who work beyond the limelight may well lead us to consider the possibility of seeing the process, to a certain extent, as an end per se.

I would like to thank the PAA as well as the SWP organizers and contributors for their efforts in maintaining this program.



A Journalism Internship in Vienna



By Chenxin Jiang '09

Instead of spending the Easter break holed up in Oxford's Bodleian

Library writing a junior paper as I should have, I spent a month in Vienna interning through the German Summer Work Program at Der Standard, the most widely read newspaper among college-educated Austrians.

I first arrived in Vienna after a year and a half of German classes at Princeton - at which point, even composing a brief email in German seemed daunting. But with the help of sympathetic editors and colleagues, within days I was using the wire services to write short news summaries in German. Eventually I was assigned to write articles on a daily basis for the features section, and had the chance to pitch longer articles for the *SchülerStandard* and *UniStandard*

sections. Spending time at individual news desks as well as in the main newsroom allowed me to gain a more balanced view of how the paper functioned as a whole. By the end of my time at Der Standard, I had covered issues ranging from racist incidents in Vienna to reactions to the Tibet protests in Chinese blogs.

Each day at Der Standard's offices in central Vienna began with editorial meetings in which the editors discussed the morning's paper, criticising some articles, applauding others, and deciding on themes for the next day's paper. Reading the newspaper from the perspective of the people who make it gave me a sharper sense of how editorial

decisions are made, or why a story might sound superficial or stale by the following day.

In the afternoons I spent a few hours before the 17:30 printing deadline in the newsroom shadowing my internship mentor, Dr. Eric Frey. As the managing editor, Dr. Frey was responsible for making swift decisions: in a hectic afternoon, the entire layout of the first few pages might have to be adjusted when an urgent story broke minutes before the newsroom deadline. By watching him craft and fine-tune headlines, I quickly

learned to gauge the relative importance of front-page news stories, and what would catch an Austrian reader's attention. Outside of work, I had fun getting to know my colleagues, mostly local students freelancing for the newspaper. But although I acquired a taste for Marillenknödel, I never quite got used to the Viennese accent.

My experience writing in German and using the wire services at Der Standard has come in useful this summer in Berlin, where I am interning at the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa) and

studying journalism at the Freie Universität through a DAAD summer fellowship. Especial thanks to Dr Eric Frey, as well as editors Petra Stuber of the Chronik page and Louise Beltzung of the UniStandard page, for their patience; and to the Summer Work Program, for organizing and funding an internship which was more challenging but also far more rewarding than I had bargained for.



Another Record Year for the Summer Work Program

By David T. Fisher - SWP Director

As this year's interns finish up their internships and start returning to Princeton I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to this outstanding success. In order to give you an idea of the wide range of experiences that our students were able to enjoy, here is the list of this year's interns and internships:

Intern

Adeniji, Temi
 Bewergunge, Philipp
 Berry, Dan
 Chua, Jason
 Chen, Yeo-Chuin (Justin)
 Colgan, Brendan
 Day, Robert
 Erkman, Bilkan
 Giraud, Jean
 Gershkon, Sarah
 Harper, Jason
 Ho, Quoc
 Ho, Teck Hsien
 Imsdahl, Thor
 Jiang, Chenxin
 Kheyfets, Julie
 Kumar, Paavana
 Okutgen, Okan
 Onuk, Cargi
 Peterson, Brooke
 Rodda, Alexis
 Sandys, Emily
 Schaffer, Will
 Softy, Schuyler
 Trombley, Kyle

City

Cologne
 Berlin
 Weimar
 Frankfurt am Main
 Berlin
 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbaden
 Munich
 Berlin
 Berlin
 Frankfurt am Main
 Frankfurt
 Vienna
 Darmstadt
 Berlin
 Sindelfingen
 Hannover
 Wiesbaden
 Vienna
 Wiesbaden
 Stuttgart
 Wiesbaden
 Bensheim-Auerbach

Employer

Oppenhoff & Partner
 SPD-Bundestagsfraktion
 Kunstfest Weimar
 Credit Suisse
 MTU
 City of Wiesbaden
 Paule & Partner
 PersonaTEC
 Hessian State Ministry
 Ifo Institute
 ZDF
 MTU
 Acatis
 Skadden
 Der Standard
 iPharro
 Salens LLP
 Daimler
 TRW
 Aukamm-Klinik
 Jewish Museum Vienna
 Hessian State Ministry
 Hitachi
 Honeywell
 Triangle



50th Anniversary of the Princeton Summer Work Program

The Princeton German Department cordially invites all current and former participants as well as friends, sponsors and donors of the SWP to a celebration of the 50th anniversary of this highly successful program. The celebration will take place on the 11th of October, 2008 in Princeton.

Upcoming Events

Save the Dates!

**50th Anniversary of the Princeton Summer Work Program
in Princeton on the 11th of October, 2008**

**Annual Meeting of the PAA of Germany
in Wiesbaden on the 1st of November, 2008**

**Election Night Party Co-sponsored by the US Consulate General
and the PAA of Germany in Frankfurt
on the 4th of November, 2008**

**ALUMNI SCHOOLS COMMITTEE
GERMANY**

GIVING BACK AND GOING BACK

**PROMOTING PRINCETON
PROMOTING EDUCATION
PROMOTING EXCHANGE**

**ALUMNI INTERVIEWERS
WANTED**

**JUST AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME
MOTIVATE
PROMOTE
INFORM
LEARN
GIVE**

**INTERVIEW PERIOD:
JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH**

**PLEASE CONTACT:
LESLIE V. WANGENHEIM
LVW@WANGENHOME.COM**

**The PAAG heartily welcomes a new
member:**

Christian Grobe '07
Alumni interested in joining the PAAG can
download the application form from our
website:

<http://tigernet.princeton.edu/~paa664/>

Impressum

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