



Princeton Alumni Association of Germany

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20th Anniversary of PAAG event in Murnau with Prof. Thomas Leisten

By Will Schaffer

A warm hello to all PAAG members. My name is Will Schaffer and I interned here in Germany for 6 weeks with David Fisher in Wiesbaden. As most of you are aware, in July we gathered at the foothills of the Bavarian Alps in the small but beautiful town of Murnau in celebration of twenty years of existence. Several other interns and I had the privilege of joining PAAG members for the weekend celebration.

Members came from all over, some from as far as Bremen, for a pleasant Bavarian weekend. I personally made the trip from Wiesbaden with David, his wife Ethel, and Dagmar Westberg. I was looking forward to my first experience on the famed German Autobahn only to learn that no speed limits does not mean no traffic. Naturally we encountered kilometre-

long Staus due to the mass exodus of Dutchmen travelling South with their campers for the vacation weekend.

The weekend began with a dinner at the Hotel Angerbräu with plenty of time for drinks and a chance to meet everyone. Before the food was served, we all enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Professor Thomas Leisten on Islamic mysticism and art. Professor Leisten presented us with pictures of beautifully illustrated manuscripts and paintings. His talk showed a side of Islam running completely contrary to today's media images of the conservative, fundamentalist Muslim. After dinner, some of the younger alumni and the interns, myself included, went out to a club. Small town clubs are an interesting experience. It was a very nice club, but since it was pretty much the only club in town, the wild youth was joined by older business men drinking coffee and expensive

wine to the same thumping beat of latest hip-hop song. None the less, we all enjoyed a memorable evening.

In the morning there was a guided tour of the city. Besides seeing all of the most beautiful spots of the city, we were able to visit the home of artist Wassily Kandinsky. Our guide, who happened to be an art history major, was able to tell us all about Kandinsky and his one-time fiancée and fellow artist, Gabriele Münter, and their time in Murnau. After the tour, the weekend concluded with a nice long lunch where I enjoyed hearing about wild times at Princeton in the early 50's.

For those of you who could not make the trip, you certainly missed out on a very enjoyable celebration and I am sorry that I missed the chance to meet you. However, I hope to see many of you in Berlin for the celebration of Princeton Summer Work Program's 50th Anniversary in June.



John S. Sease '69

* 28.04.1947 - † 29.06.2007



John died on the 29th of June, 2007 near Trier, Germany after a year-long struggle with cancer.

John attended Verde Valley School in Sedona, Arizona and completed his freshman year at Berkeley. He transferred to Princeton in 1965 concentrating in classical philosophy. An outstanding French horn player he played in the Princeton orchestra as well as in a jug band. He was a member of Ivy Club. John mastered six languages, wrote his senior thesis on Plato and graduated summa cum laude.


After graduation John received a Fulbright grant and spent a year at the

University of Frankfurt where he studied critical theory.

After returning from Germany he was offered a fellowship to do doctoral work at Stanford but was drawn instead to the beauty of the American Southwest where he lived for ten years. It was during this period that his first son, Benjamin (Freddy), was born to him and Roberta G. Steinman *70.

In 1982 he moved back to Germany, earned a master's degree in business, taught for the European Division of the University of Maryland and began an IT career at EDS Electronic Data Systems. He co-

founded the Princeton Alumni Association of Germany in 1987 and served as its treasurer for 20 years. He played first horn for the Wiesbaden Orchesterverein as well as for a classical quintet. In 1992 he married Leonie Hamm, an EDS systems analyst from Trier, Germany. In 1998 Leonie and John founded their own consulting firm, which operated successfully until his death.

John is survived by his wife, Leonie, his children, Benjamin, Constance and Eric, his grandson Allan, his mother, Constance, and his brother, Richard. 

Executive Positions for Rob Smith '84 and Wolfgang Konrad *93



Left: Wolfgang Konrad; right: Rob Smith

By Morgan Jacobs

We would like to congratulate Dr. Rob Smith '84 and Dr. Wolfgang Konrad *93, who were both recently awarded new management positions in their respective firms. Rob who was named Vice President at the end of last year when he signed on with TRW Automotive, and Wolfgang was announced as the new president and CEO of MTU Maintenance Berlin-Brandenburg this past February.

Rob is now running the global Engine Components Division, a full stand-alone \$750 million P&L with seventeen factories, 7 JVs and 5500 employees in North and South America, Europe and Asia.

“TRW Engine Components has a tremendous heritage as well as an exciting future,” says Rob. “The history goes back to 1901 in the USA as the original part of TRW with valves in Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis airplane in 1927, and includes an industrial track record spanning over 60 years in Europe, South America and Asia. This is an exciting turnaround opportunity, and the business is well on track for charting and delivering a successful future.”

Wolfgang took the lead of the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) specialist at Ludwigsfelde on February 1, 2007. Since 1998, Dr. Konrad has had various management


positions at BMW, most recently as the head of quality management and body engineering. He comes to Ludwigsfelde from Munich, where he was working in various management positions at BMW since 1998, concluding with a position as head of quality management and body engineering. From 1993 to 1998, Wolfgang worked for BMW Rolls-Royce Aero Engines GmbH at Dahlewitz. From 2002 to 2005, Wolfgang headed Quality Assurance and Manufacturing Engineering at BMW’s Plant Hams Hall in Great Britain.

MTU Maintenance Berlin-Brandenburg specializes in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of

aircraft engines, headquartered in Ludwigsfelde near Berlin. The company has played a considerable role in Airbus A400M military transport, and the final assembly of

the European production TP400-D6s is all conducted at Ludwigsfelde. MTU Aero Engines is the leading engine manufacturer in Germany and one of the industry's major

contenders.

We wish both Rob and Wolfgang all the best in their new positions and congratulate them on these exciting opportunities. 

Summer Work Program Participants 2007

The Summer Work Program sent 22 interns to Germany and Austria this year. The following is a list of this year's participants, internships, and locations. We would like to thank Dagmar Westberg for her generous donation that enabled the SWP to provide stipends for students with unpaid internships. We hope that, with the help of future alumni donations, we can send even more students abroad next summer and continue to provide a need-blind stipend policy, thus ensuring that no good opportunity for cultural exchange goes unutilized.

Peter Capkovic '09,

Allianz, Munich

Alexandra Christea '09

Bundesfinanzministerium

Katherine Culver '10,

ZDF, Mainz

Jeylan Erman '08,

Triangle Venture
Capital Group,
Bensheim

Elissa Frankle '08,

Jüdisches
Museum, Vienna

Brian Holmes '09,

Uni-Klinik-Freiburg

Mirela Hristova '09,

IFO, Munich

Thor Imsdahl '09,

Bundestag, Berlin
Eur. Parliament

Michael Kowen '09,

Deutsches
Architekturmuseum,
Frankfurt

Morgan Jacobs '09,

Sportclub
„Frankfurt 1880“
e.V., Frankfurt

Emily Margolis '10,

Zwinger, Dresden

Matthew Martin '08,

Credit Suisse,
Frankfurt

Tavi Meraud, '09

Rowohlt Verlag,
Hamburg

Stephen Nei '10,

Dr. Max Otto, Worms

Alex Petrescu '09,

Siemens, Vienna

Bora Plaku '09,

Kunsthalle,
Bremen

Andrei Ungureanu

'10, Siemens,
Vienna

Will Schaffer '09,

Princeton Alumni
Association of
Germany,
Wiesbaden

Chris Schlegel '09,

Westdeutsche
Rundfunk,
Cologne



Five of the interns spent a weekend in Strasbourg. From left: Jeylan Erman '08, Morgan Jacobs '09, Matt Martin '08, Brian Holmes '09, Will Schaffer '09.

Princeton Munich Get-Together Planned for October 2007

Leslie von Wangenheim is in the process of organizing a regular get-together for Munich alumni. After gathering responses from those in the area, she has summarized the following:

- A get-together every 6 weeks might be preferable to every 4 weeks
- Mondays and Tuesdays appear to work best for all
- 7pm is the best time for most people
- Get-together will be in a central location in Munich, available via public transportation

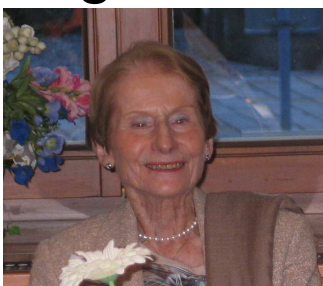
If the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm is agreed upon, there should be a group of at least 5 present. The date and time will be moved if no one is available. The next proposed meeting is:


October 3, 2007

Location to be decided

Please contact Leslie to let her know if this works. She can be reached at lvw@wangenhome.com.

Dagmar Westberg generously donates to the SWP



We would like to take a moment to thank Dagmar Westberg for her tremendous generosity. The Summer Work Program (SWP) provides stipends to students who are working in unpaid internships in Germany. Frau Westberg's donations have made it possible to continue the need-blind stipend program this summer. It was our pleasure to have her present at the PAAG get-together in Murnau. 


Dr. Helena Kane Finn S*78P'02 takes over as Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Berlin



This August, Dr. Helena Kane Finn took over the position of Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy Berlin. In this capacity Dr. Finn serves as the

advisor to Ambassador Timkin and Deputy Chief of Mission Koenig on all matters relating to public diplomacy and public affairs. Among her many tasks, she will be organizing press conferences and providing information on American policy to our German audiences. She is an expert in public diplomacy, press, educational and cultural affairs, Turkey, Pakistan, the Muslim world, Germany and Austria. In her previous position Dr. Finn served as the Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tel

Aviv.


Dr. Finn spent a year at Princeton doing post-doctoral studies in Comparative Literature with Prof. Edward Sullivan, and Byzantine History with Prof. Nina Garsoian. Her husband, Ambassador Robert Finn, received his PhD in Turkish Studies from Princeton in 1978 and is now a member of the Princeton faculty. Their son and his wife are both members of the Princeton Class of 2002 and are currently graduate students at Stanford. 

Princeton leads list of top-ranking American universities in alumni giving


Once again in 2007, Princeton holds the number one spot as America's top national university in the *US News and World Report's* annual rankings. Princeton edged out Harvard by one point for the leading position with an overall score of 100 points. While the ranking in itself is cause enough for celebration, it is even more satisfactory to see that Princeton had a significant lead over

Harvard in the alumni giving category. Princeton was ranked first in the overall alumni giving, whereas Harvard fell short in sixth place this year. Princeton also had an overwhelming alumni giving participation rate of 61% in 2007; again, Harvard lagged far behind with only 44% participation.

The 2006-07 annual giving campaign raised a total of \$49,040,759, the highest in

Princeton's history. The Class of 1982, celebrating their 25th, raised \$7,813,382, a record not only for any 25th reunion, but also for any class. Also noteworthy is the steadily increasing participation amongst the youngest classes: the Class of 2002 had 75.9% participation, breaking a record that had previously been in place for over 50 years, and the youngest 5 classes had a collective average of 69.4% participation. 

Tigertones in Munich

The Tigertones had a wonderful time visiting Munich this summer as the fourth stop on our biannual World Tour. Susanne Redetski and the group's other host families were incredibly generous, and the Bavarian beer/sausages have never been better! During the visit, the 'Tones gave three smashing performances, including a private concert for the American Consulate and, of course, an outdoor show for the Princeton Alumni Association at the Redetski's residence. Blessed with only good weather during all of our travels in Europe, the 'Tones enjoyed cycling through the center of Munich and visiting the sites. 

Upcoming Events

50th Anniversary Celebration for Summer Work Program planned for Spring 2008

More information to follow, but the celebration is tentatively planned for June in Berlin.

Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner planned for November 24th, 2007

Nassoons visit planned for Spring Break 2008

Impressum

This newsletter is a publication of the Verein der Freunde zur Förderung der Universität Princeton e.V., Hirtenstrasse 10, 65193 Wiesbaden
Responsible for its content is David T. Fisher
Email: dtf@princeton.edu