

Briefe aus Berlin

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I '05

Alumni Newsletter

of the KRUPP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR STANFORD STUDENTS IN GERMANY



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Grußwort der Krupp-Stiftung

Das „Krupp Internship Program for Stanford Students in Germany“ wurde 1982 ins Leben gerufen und gehört somit zu den ältesten Stipendienprogrammen der Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung.

Seither sind über 800 Studierende der Stanford University nach Deutschland gekommen, um hier nach gründlicher Vorbereitung ein Praktikum in einem Unternehmen oder einer Institution zu absolvieren.

Viele ehemalige Stipendiaten haben mittlerweile in der ganzen Welt verantwortliche Positionen eingenommen und wirken weiterhin an den guten Beziehungen zwischen den Vereinigten Staaten und Deutschland an entscheidender Stelle mit.

Der Newsletter soll dazu beitragen, daß die Stipendiaten auch nach Beendigung ihres Aufenthaltes weiterhin über Deutschland informiert bleiben und ihren Kontakt untereinander fortsetzen können.

Von einer aktiven Gemeinschaft ehemaliger Stipendiaten werden auch die neuen Teilnehmer profitieren.

Ich wünsche mir, daß alle Programmteilnehmer dereinst auf das „Krupp Internship Program“ als entscheidenden Baustein ihrer beruflichen und persönlichen Laufbahn zurückblicken und Deutschland und Europa im besten Sinne verbunden bleiben. ■

Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Berthold Beitz

Vorsitzender und geschäftsführendes Mitglied des Kuratoriums der Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung



Meeting with Berthold Beitz, members of the Krupp Foundation, and board members of the Stanford Club of Germany at the Villa Hügel in May 2005



South view of The Villa with new sports court

Grüße aus der Pacelliallee by Karen Kramer

The last time you heard from me was four years ago, when we sent you a dauntingly long “Krupp Alumni Questionnaire”, asking you to reflect on your experiences in Germany and how your time here may have affected your subsequent lives. Your response was mind-boggling: Sixty percent of you answered the questionnaire – that is something like a Guinness Book of Records accomplishment for social science surveys. That turnout, and the narrative of your memories and their impact on your continuing histories, were deeply gratifying both to your mentors here in the Pacelliallee and to Prof. Dr. Beitz, head of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Foundation, which has so generously funded the Internship program since 1982. Your responses marked one of the really special moments in my 25 years as Director of Stanford in Berlin. ▶

Highlights of what we learned from your responses: 75% of you confirmed that the program had strongly influenced your *personal* development; 91% of you said it had affected your *professional* development (41% “strongly”). Your stay in Germany led 8% of you to change your academic plans, 38% your professional plans, and 23% your preferred place of residence. Salient characteristics of your German experience were that you felt “welcome”, “safe”, “energized”, and “intellectually inspired.” When you returned to campus, 98% of you urged others to apply for the program. 60% of you have returned to Germany since graduation, and 65% of those have come back more than once and/or for an extended period of time. Almost all of you indicated that your Krupp Internship had positively affected your image of Germany, and 73% of you said it had strongly increased your awareness of international affairs.

We were heartened to hear how enduring the impact of your studies and workplace experience in Germany has been and gave some thought to how we could unleash the synergy of 800 Krupp Intern Alumni (most of whom have never met each other) while sustaining and deepening the bonds between our cultures. 78% of you said you would enjoy – as they say in *Neudeutsch* – *Networking* (hear the slight accent ...) with other

What’s new

at Stanford in Berlin

by Karen Kramer



What's new? It is hard to know where to start. Or should I say, *when*. Some of you finished your Krupp Internships over two decades ago, others are in your internships right now. But since we are currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of the program, let me give you a thumbnail rendition of our first three decades.

Stanford’s German program moved from Beutelsbach (close to Stuttgart) to what was then West Berlin in 1975. The program was small and had no home; Stanford had use of a room at the Freie Universität, students resided in a *Gastarbeiterheim* with other foreigners. But soon, the provisional character of the program changed. In 1977 the program moved into the state architectural monument “Haus Cramer” (named after the family that commissioned its erection through the renowned architect Hermann Muthesius in 1911), the house most of us

Kruppianer. That is one aim of this annual newsletter; the other is to open up for you a compact and customized window to contemporary Germany.

This first issue is our stab in the dark, conceived and composed in the rooms upstairs in “the Villa”. We invite your ideas on what you would like to see in future newsletters, on how we can develop it as a tool, on language (this time we stuck mostly to English, but we will include more entries in German if you would prefer). The newsletter is a forum – *your* forum. So please be in touch. We will! ■



Karen Kramer is presenting a Stanford basketball to George Will at the 30th anniversary party on May 30, 2005

call “the Villa” (though one group in the early 80s fondly christened it “Villa Moo”, honoring its creator with bovine wit). In those years, the Villa was not only where you studied, but where many of you lived, together with German students. Today all students live with Berlin host families, and the Villa is a combination facility with classrooms, student lounges, a library, computer clusters, a fitness room, and offices.

The next milestone at Stanford in Berlin, once we had a solid roof over our heads, was the establishment of the unparalleled program you all participated in after completing coursework in the Pacelliallee, a program whose quality and scope is as unique today as it was back in 1982 when it was founded: the Krupp Internship Program for Stanford Students in Germany. Our 800th Krupp Intern, Tracy Vo, is currently doing her internship at ZukunftsAgentur Brandenburg, in Potsdam.

In 1989, the Wall fell. Life changed for all Berliners, in East and West. The city is still its gritty, beloved self, but it is also something very new – a dynamic capital, albeit one that is in dire fiscal straits. (Unification turned out to be somewhat more expensive than Theo Waigel, ►

then Federal Minister of Finance, claimed when he said it wouldn't cost the average German more than 10 DM ...). If you studied in Berlin in the old millennium we assure you: you'd no longer recognize the place. In an ill-advised surge of political mop-up myopia the government eradicated virtually *all* of the Wall – the first thing people hope to see when they come here (*never* have a garage sale on first impulse). Although that old post-Prussian sandbox West Berlin was a never-never land many miss, the new Berlin is even more interesting. Why? For starters: The historical and urban core of Berlin – and the people who lived unique, albeit in some respects bizarrely constrained, lives there – was on the *other* side of the Wall. The re-combination of East and West in Berlin was more than an addition exercise; the city is a troubled but fantastic place where everything seems to flourish except the economy. Since young people are less interested in the economy than in culture – in music, “the scene”, the intellectuals, the clubs, the personalities on the street – Berlin is a place students love to be.

In 2000, Stanford alumnus George Will (class of '55, Berliner) headed a drive to raise the funds to buy the Villa. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Will, and other alumni who donated through the President's Fund, the Villa is now Stanford property. The sandstone is gray instead of yellow, but the roof is red tile and the place is unmistakably Stanford. Last year The Will Foundation also donated a sports court (basketball, volleyball, badminton) on that lower part of the lawn beneath the rose garden that no one used to frequent (the spot where some of you used to jump over the fence – alas in flagrant violation of our rules – to get to a class that had already begun).

Brendan O'Connor
(Symbolic Systems, IR),
software development
for the e-chalk project at the
FU Berlin-Institut für
Informatik, summer 2004.



Sierra Gonzalez
(Product Design; Science,
Technology & Society),
hand bag design at cover b,
Berlin, summers of 2003
and 2004.



Kathryn Pfeiffer (Art/
Art History), art pedagogy
with children at Kappe e.V.,
Berlin, summer 2004.



Erin Atkinson (Chemistry),
hospital internship at the
Cardiology Dept. of the
Krankenhaus Lichtenberg,
Berlin, summer 2004.



You came to Berlin in order to experience how people live *elsewhere*, how things are done *differently*. We continue with the heavy immersion program you experienced when you were here; a grant by Helen and Peter Bing provides group visits to operas and symphonies, field trips, festive meals. We have increasingly designed courses around the resources of the city *outside* the Villa. Except for one visiting Stanford professor each quarter, our courses are still taught entirely by Germans or by that terminally germanized Angelino, me. Theater courses meet once a week in the theaters to experience Berlin's best productions, the film courses spend 10 intense days at the remarkable Berlin Film Festival; courses in sports culture and theory mentor students in *really* watching (observing) sports events – and watching the way Germans watch them, detecting how social negotiations and displacements are projected onto spectator sports; the course sequence on the New Europe has brought students to places as varied as Slovenia, Poland, Vienna and Yekaterinburg to meet with EU policy actors; Franz Neckenig's art and architecture courses draw students into the streets and spaces in which the city became the city and displays the objects it cherishes.

A very exciting recent development are the Overseas Studies Conferences that take place once or twice annually, bringing students from Stanford's overseas campuses all over the globe together to discuss a theme of common interest to each of the cultures in which Stanford students study, after taking a quarter of dedicated coursework on the theme. Five of the six conferences held thus far have taken place in Berlin; the first three were on World War II (with student participants from the programs in Russia, France, England, Italy and Germany – every one of those countries had a unique “take” on, ►



Malcolm Murdock (ME, Creative Writing), construction of an automatic walking aid at Fraunhofer Institut für Produktionsanlagen und Konstruktionstechnik, Berlin, summer 2004.

Lauren Schneider (CE), architecture internship at Büro Grazioli & Muthesius, Architektur und Städtebau, Berlin, summer 2004.



and role in, the war). In 2004 and 2005 we conducted the "Stanford Siemens Lufthansa Conference on Globalization" in Berlin, in which Stanford and German students deliberated for three days in presentation- and workshop-based sessions. At the end of this *Brief* from Berlin you will find an article by Sylke Tempel, instructor of our Globalization course and Coordinator of this year's conference. In March students from six of Stanford's overseas campuses met in Paris to discuss the perceptions of the United States and national identity in the host cultures. These conferences have proven to be an engaging enhancement of students' learning and give them the rare opportunity and challenge of presenting their findings to a large, specialized group of peers and professionals in an international context – the very context in which more and more of them make their careers. ■



Patrick Wood (Computer Science) at the Siemens division Automation & Drive in Berlin, summer 2005.

How to come back?

Tips for recent alumni:

Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung,
Fellowships for U.S. Scientists and Scholars:
<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/>

Bavarian American Center (BAC),
Professional Internship Program:
professional internships for graduate students and recent graduates pursuing a career in public administration or international relations:
<http://www.cdsintl.org/fromusa/bac.htm>

The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program supports young professionals from the US to spend a year working in their professions in Germany. Robert-Bosch-Stiftung:
<http://www.bosch-stiftung.de/>

Robert Bosch Foundation in cooperation with Deutsches Studentenwerk (DSW) and CDS International, Higher Education Administration Program (HEAP): internships in the field of student affairs:
<http://www.cdsintl.org/>

Bundeskanzler-Stipendium für Führungsnachwuchskräfte aus den U.S.A, in cooperation with Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung:
http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/de/programme/stip_aus/buka.htm

Bundestag Internship through the International Parliaments-Praktika (IPP) Internship Program, in cooperation with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:
<http://www.bundestag.de/dialog/ipp/>,
http://www2.hu-berlin.de/aia/parl_prak/ipp.htm

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and the "German Committee of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience" (IAESTE): Helps to find internships. Contact:
<http://www.daad.de>, <http://www.iaeste.de/en/>

The German-American Fulbright Commission has special programs for U.S. citizens:
<http://www.fulbright.de>

International Cooperative Education (ICE) helps to arrange summer jobs and internships: <http://www.icemenlo.com>

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS) provides stipends to German and international graduates for further education and graduate work, esp. for young people who want to become leaders in the fields of politics, business, science, media, culture:
<http://www.kas.de> (see: Begabtenförderung)

On internships and fellowship programs you can receive information and application material from Stanford's "Career Development Center":
<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/CDC>



German and Berlin Links

Deutsche Kultur international:

<http://deutsche-kultur-international.de>
<http://www.goethe.de/>

LEO Deutsch-Englisches Wörterbuch:

<http://dict.leo.org/>

Perlentaucher in German and English:

<http://www.signandsight.com/>, <http://www.perlentaucher.de/>

Deutsche Wochenzeitungen:

Die Zeit: <http://www.zeit.de/>

Jüdische Allgemeine. Wochenzeitung für Politik, Kultur, Religion und jüdisches Leben:

<http://www.juedische-allgemeine.de/>

Freitag. Die Ost-West-Wochenzeitung:

<http://www.freitag.de/>

Rheinischer Merkur – Die Magazinzeitung für Deutschland

<http://www.merkur.de/>

Berlin: die offizielle Hauptstadtseite:

<http://www.berlin.de/>, Stadtportal für das Berliner Leben:
<http://www.berlinonline.de/>

Neue Berliner Orte:

Berlinische Galerie. Landesmuseum für Moderne Kunst, Photographie und Architektur:
<http://www.berlinischegalerie.de/>

Holocaust-Mahnmal: Stiftung Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas: <http://www.holocaust-mahnmal.de/>

Status Report

on Krupp Internship Program

by Wolf-Dietrich Junghanns



Dear former interns,

over the years, the internship program has remained true to its main goal: to provide opportunities for a deeper immersion into German culture and language. The effective pursuit of that goal has brought with it periodic change, as we adapt to changing generations and workplace culture. Prospective interns are now closely involved in the placement process right from the start. The diversity of their interests has led to a dynamic process of host acquisition; about half of our host institutions each year are new. Although curricular constraints in many departments have made summer internships now the rule rather than the exception, we continue to have interns in the field in all seasons and some students still opt to intern for 6 months, as the duration of the internship is an important factor in creating a transformative experience and forging lasting bonds with the culture. To make overseas study feasible for students with heavy departmental loads, we now offer beginning intensive language instruction in Berlin; the rapid progress these students make is astonishing – they literally go from hardly being able to say Guten Tag to conducting lively conversations within 10 weeks. We continue to work “need blind”; the Krupp stipend is sufficient to cover the full cost of living, thus sustaining the attractiveness of the program also for students on financial aid.

Our outreach activities have adapted with the times as well. In an era of cheap flights and quick-hit tourism, it hardly goes without saying that a Stanford student would leave “the Farm” and learn German in order to spend half a year or more studying and working in Germany. But interest in the program has not waned; on the contrary, enrollments for this year will be the largest in the history of the program. The expansion and integration of Europe, and the twists and turns of German unification are strong attractions. The challenges of the region make it a more, not less, interesting socio-political laboratory in which to study. Germany’s “family squabbles”, as tiring as they sometimes might be for us natives, provide a productive backdrop in which students reassess the social, political and intellectual challenges to our increasingly linked and interdependent cultures.

This year marked the placement of the 800th Krupp/Stanford intern; for me personally, this history involved the great pleasure of getting to know over 250 of ►

you, the students whom I placed together with Jutta Ley in the past seven years. In 1997, I became the first German to hold this position; my own experience studying and working – mainly in Russia and in the U.S. – taught me that “culture shock” is not something one should avoid, but indeed is a prerequisite to learning. Having a German as Internship Coordinator surely does at least one thing: it gives students a bit of culture shock early, already in the Villa! Born in the East, I am very grateful for our many encounters—from my perspective, one completely unexpected and exceedingly rewarding consequence of the fall of the Wall; another was that many of you have had the opportunity of interning in and exploring the East – and a few of you even chose to make your homes there.

There is great benefit in a shift of perspective – for the understanding not only of the “other”, but of our own heritage and cultural background(s) as well. You too have certainly learned that we, *nolens volens*, become representatives of our countries in the moment we meet people of other countries. Working with you, I have learned to accept and even to play the role of the “typical German”, as one student kindly put it. So my wish for the interns of the future is that we will have a lot of fun with the productive “irritations” of our encounters. As the philosophers like to say: genuine communication starts with misunderstandings. ■

Looking back

R. Juge Gregg, Krupp intern of 1993



Berlin taught me that I am not a scientist. I arrived a domestically focused environmental scientist-in-training and left intending to focus on international environmental policy. As a Krupp intern, I worked for *Projektträger Biologie, Energie, Ökologie* (PT BEO), an organization that managed federal environmental research funds. Among other tasks, they asked me to look into the likely policies of the new Clinton/Gore administration. Learning about the research that PT BEO was overseeing at the same time that I was studying the policies of a new U.S. administration starkly contrasted the work of an environmental scientist with that of a policy specialist. I found the latter far more interesting.

I returned to Stanford, changed my major and, ultimately, went to law school. I now work for the Environmental Investigation Agency, a nongovernmental organization that investigates, often undercover, inter-

Potsdamer Platz
in 2001 and 1988



national environmental crime. We use the information exposed by our investigations to encourage change in international laws and in the way that governments, companies and international institutions act.

Tracking the global trade in illicit timber can present unexpected challenges. In some subtle way, living and working in Berlin better prepared me to deal with these challenges. This was brought home in a lunch discussion with other former Krupp interns several years after graduation. After the obligatory reminiscing about *Tacheles*, *Nollendorf Falafel* and other favorite spots, someone commented that, although he wasn't sure exactly how, the year had changed him for the better. We compared notes and found that we all came back more focused and much better able to deal with unforeseen situations. We, only half jokingly, concluded that it was the result of spending a year in a place where simply scheduling an appointment with a dentist was a major endeavor (not to mention trying to explain what needed to be done in a way that avoided drilling).

I also teach international environmental law and policy at Stanford's program in Washington, D.C. Because the only real language barrier here is the city's profusion of acronyms, many of my students do not arrive seeking the “overseas” experience. However, having benefited so much from day-to-day life in Berlin, I encourage my students to do the same. Part of their required coursework is to learn from the city, their coworkers and D.C.'s many cultural offerings. I hope it will help provide them the focus and *Fähigkeit* I found in Germany. ■

My Internship

by Arden Pennell



Art/Art History Student: *Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung, Winter 2005*

This past January to March, I was lucky to have an internship with Berlin's *Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung*, or Office of Urban Development. I say "lucky" for reasons both general to the Krupp opportunity and specific to my experience.

I spoke only German all day, and interacted only with Germans. This may seem like a no-brainer, but many American study abroad programs do not provide this experience; in fact, almost none do. I kept in contact with the friends I made and saw them again when I returned in the summer. The internship provided an unparalleled level of language familiarity: I can speak intelligibly about any topic, read the newspaper, and I have even begun to think in German without noticing it. After a conversation, few people can believe I only spent six months in Germany – nor can I! Language abilities are good not only in and of themselves; they also cause one to think like a native speaker, providing insight into the mentality of a place.

Given the contemporary German environment, that is a climate of high unemployment and economic malaise, I could never have created such an internship on my own, without the institutional support of the Krupp program.

Several factors made my experience positive. I worked in sequence in two different departments, and in each one I was surrounded by caring people who explained things to me patiently and always answered my questions: how to do a specific task, fine points of German grammar, or how they felt about politics. My supervisor in the second department, Christine Wolf of the *Landesdenkmalamt*, used her day off to show me around the *Bayerisches Viertel* and sent me get-well packages when I got the flu and stayed home sick. She has even sent news clippings to California!

My duties were well suited to my enjoyment of languages and international affairs. I helped prepare materials for an international conference taking place in Berlin in May (www.metropolis2005.org) and translated Spanish into English and German. I searched for monuments throughout Europe that involved the German role in World War Two, which sent me fishing through web pages in languages from Italian to Dutch, receiving

emails in the universal language of bad English. I also had access to special media compilations about Berlin news that were distributed throughout the *Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung*; the articles I collected now form the basis of an honors thesis I'm going to write next year.

I had a great time in Germany, enjoying the opportunity to live and work in a unique way. The internship provided invaluable cultural contact and a lovely experience that has left me planning to return. ■

Lob der deutschen Sprache

Jorge Luis Borges

Die kastilische Sprache ward mir zum Schicksal,
Franzisco de Quevedos Bronze,
aber auf dem langen Weg durch die Nacht;
erheben sich andre, intimere Musiken.
Eine wurde mir aus dem Blute geschenkt –
o Stimme Shakespeares und der Schrift –
andere durch Zufall, der freigebig ist.
Dich aber, süße Sprache Deutschlands,
Dich habe ich erwählt und gesucht, ganz von mir aus.
In Nachtwachen und mit Grammatiken,
aus dem Dschungel der Deklinationen,
das Wörterbuch zur Hand,
das nie den präzisen Beiklang trifft,
näherte ich mich Dir.
Meine Nächte sind mit Virgil angefüllt;
so sagte ich einmal;
ich könnte aber auch gesagt haben:
mit Hölderlin und Angelus Silesius.
Heine gab mir seine Nachtigallenpracht;
Goethe die Schickung einer späten Liebe,
gelassen sowohl wie bereichernd;
Keller die Rose, gelegt von der Hand
in die eines Toten, der die Blume liebte
und der nie wissen wird, ob sie weiß oder rot ist.
Du, Sprache Deutschlands, bist Dein Hauptwerk;
die verschränkte Liebe der Wortverbindungen,
die offenen Vokale, die Klänge,
angemessen dem griechischen Hexameter,
und Deine Wald- und Nachtgeräusche.
Dich besaß ich einmal. Heute, am Saum der müden
Jahre;
gewahre ich Dich in der Ferne;
unscharf wie die Algebra und den Mond!

(Aus „El Oro de los Tigres“, Buenos Aires 1972.
Übersetzt von Franz Nidermayer)

Fußball-Weltmeisterschaft 9.6.–9.7.2006

Whereas a century ago the gap between German *Kultur* and *Fußball* as the epitome of the newly imported English phenomenon of *sports* seemed unbridgeable, (German) soccer today is the national sport and indeed a *Kulturgut* in its own right. The bare facts: 6,27 Mill. of the 25,37 Mill. members of the *Deutsche Sportbund* (DFB) are members of soccer associations, and 857.220 of them are women; three World Cup victories for the men (Bern 1954, München 1974, Rom 1990) and one for the women (Portland 2003 – forgive us!) express this success story. After WWII (men's) soccer became a legitimate form of national representation that every German government – local, regional or federal – strives to protect, be it with funding or political intervention, ensuring that games of the national team will be broadcast on public TV in this era of pervasive private media and sponsoring.

No wonder, then, that the World Cup (WC) 2006, staged in Berlin, Gelsenkirchen („Auf Schalke“), Hannover, Munich, Leipzig, Nürnberg and other cities, will be not only one of the biggest festivals of international sports but also a show of German *Leistungsfähigkeit*, *Weltoffenheit* and *Freundlichkeit* to the world, despite (indeed because of) the difficult times Germany is experiencing economically and politically – soccer as a mirror of the German soul. Not just stadiums and infrastructure have been renewed or newly build, the WC will be prepared with and accompanied by a broad *Kulturprogramm* (as if soccer were not culture enough ...), with exhibitions, conferences, movies, concerts, etc. We expect a big festival not just for the lucky few who get their hands on tickets, but for all who want to enjoy the sportive atmosphere live in a country desperate to be champion again, be it in front of public video screens or on TVs in the *gemütlichen Kneipen*. And don't forget: you can still try to get a ticket in the big international online lottery!

For information on programm and ticketing: <http://www.FIFAworldcup.com>; the Deutsche Fußballbund:

<http://www.dfb.de>; "Anstoss", the six issues of the German-English journal of the



Kunst- und Kulturprogramm zur FIFA WM 2006 published by the Nationale DFB Kulturstiftung WM 2006 can be ordered on: info@dfb-kulturstiftung.de; the programm of the newly founded Deutsche Akademie für Fußball-Kultur in Nuremberg:

http://wm2006.nuernberg.de/ver2003/scripts/00_home.php?id=138. ■

Filmtipps

Goodbye Lenin

<http://www.good-bye-lenin.de>

Eine Tragikomödie – der erfolgreichste deutsche Film seit langem – gestattet den Ostdeutschen (aber nicht nur ihnen), wozu sie zwischen dem 9. November 1989 und dem 3. Oktober 1990 keine Zeit hatten: sich von der DDR zu verabschieden.

One Day in Europe

<http://www.onedayineurope.de>

Ein Episodenfilm über Europa: Am Tag des Champions League-Finales zwischen Galatasaray Istanbul und Deportivo La Coruña in Moskau haben Touristen unerwartete kulturelle Begegnungen in Berlin, Istanbul, Moskau und Santiago de Compostela.

Schulze gets the Blues

<http://www.schulzegetstheblues.de>

Ein frühpensionierter Bergarbeiter und Akkordeonspieler aus Sachsen-Anhalt wechselt von der Polka zu Zydeco und findet das Glück in Louisiana – über das langsame Leben hier wie da.

Der Untergang

<http://www.deruntergang-special.film.de>

Berlin 1945: Der vieldiskutierte Film über Hitlers und Goebbels letzte Tage im Bunker unter der Reichskanzlei, nach dem Tagebuch von Hitlers persönlicher Sekretärin Gertraud „Traudl“ Junge.

Sophie Scholl. Die letzten Tage

<http://www.sophiescholl-derfilm.de>

Im Februar 1943 werden Mitglieder der Widerstandsgruppe „Weiße Rose“ bei einer Flugblattaktion in der Münchner Universität entdeckt. Christoph Probst und die Geschwister Hans und Sophie Scholl werden nach tagelangen Verhören vom Volksgerichtshof in einem Schnellverfahren zum Tode verurteilt.

Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei

<http://www.diefettenjahre.de>

Junge Leute verfolgen ihren Wunsch nach einer gerechteren Welt, indem sie in „reiche“ Villen einbrechen, die Möbel umstellen und Botschaften hinterlassen – ein Beitrag zum Ende der „Bonner Republik“ und zur deutschen „Kapitalismus-Debatte“.

Filmportal für deutsche Rezensionen deutscher und internationaler Filme, Filmliteratur u.a.: <http://www.film-zeit.de/home.php>

Miss those Döner?

Berlinale Review of "The Kebab Connection"
by student James Poskin

In a film festival full of serious movies about serious topics, even some of the most serious topics imaginable (including many films dealing with horrors of genocide), it was nice to see a quality light-hearted comedy about rival döner establishments, cultural difference, learning how to take responsibility, and kung-fu. The film had classic moments of hilarity, mainly playing off the Turkish-minority living in Germany. Turks have, for a long time, been a large minority population in Germany. How sensitively is the Turkish question dealt with in this light-hearted film?

In many ways, I think very. The main story is the relationship between the Turkish boy and his pregnant German girlfriend. At the end of the scene in which the girl and her mother have a discussion about the Turkish boy's potential as a father, the mother asks whether her daughter has ever seen a Turkish guy pushing a stroller, which indeed she has not. So the girl purchases a stroller for coming baby and, cleverly, leaves it for her Turkish boyfriend to push home as she runs off to do some errands. What ensues is the Turkish boy's attempt to avoid looking „girly“ by shoving the stroller way out in front of him and then slyly catching up. When some thugs walk by who always call the Turkish boy a "pussy," the boy lets the stroller roll down a big hill to avoid embarrassment. In the end, his machismo desire to "look cool" and "manly", which stems at least partly from his Turkish identity, puts him on the outs with his girlfriend. The lesson is slightly assimilationist but, I think, on the whole positive: if you want, as a Turk, to be accepted by German society, you must learn to overcome negative, sexist ethnic idiosyncrasies.

However, there is also a somewhat patronizing side to this mentality. The Germans in the film don't have to do anything in order for the Turks to "accept" them, while the Turk father has to „realize“ that the fact that his son is marrying a German girl is not, actually, a bad thing. All the change is expected to come from the minority side, and the implication is that the German side doesn't need to be more understanding or more tolerant. It could be argued that, on the whole, the film promotes a view on ethnicity in German that runs something like this: Of course we can all be happy and live together so long as you Turks assimilate and become exactly like us Germans. ■

Flash news

Within months of completing his Krupp internship, Ryan Wirtz '05 (Political Science and International Relations) will return to Berlin as Special Assistant to the new U.S. Ambassador. After coming to Berlin to compare democratization in Germany and post-apartheid South Africa, he went on to intern with a small startup offering boutique commercial and governmental translation services. The Krupp Internship, he writes, "offered a lucid insight into the post-*Wende* economic landscape, illuminating the challenges facing small businesses and real workers in the delicate German employment market." Wirtz learned of his selection as he completed the State Department's initial training for new diplomats in Washington. He claims that, "my time interning and studying in Berlin offered exceptional preparation to address the questions and issues dominating life in modern Germany." Ryan notes that his two-year tour in Embassy Berlin should be an exciting period in U.S.-German relations, with an agenda marked by the future of an enlarged E.U. and the 2005 federal elections. "Besides," he says, "if it weren't for Wolf's talking points on German sport, I would have nothing to say during the 2006 World Cup – when you can bet all the real diplomacy will be happening." ■

Commentary

by Sylke Tempel



Stanford Siemens Lufthansa Conference on Globalization, Berlin, May 26–28, 2005

Globalization seems to be an all-pervasive phenomenon. "Outsourcing" became one of the key issues in the last US-Presidential campaign. China's future role as an economic and potentially military power and the strategic impact is hotly debated by intellectuals in Europe, the US, India or South-East Asia. Globalization as the "ever faster exchange of goods, capital, people and ideas" has become a blueprint to understanding our world.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman even goes so far as to declare in his recent book that "The world is flat. Globalization has leveled the playground". Each and every country, and even more each and every individual no matter where on this globe, is affected by and has to respond to the dynamics of globalization. But has the world really become flat? Or has the widely travelled journalist overseen some hills, if not mountains? ►

Discovering the Hills

To better understand foreign cultures and to gain new perspectives are key objectives of studying overseas. But at Stanford's programs, students often go a step further. A pilot project conducted between 2002–2004 – annual conferences on World War II that each brought 100 students from the European programs to Berlin, where they present their research findings to peers and faculty specialists – revealed that our students “internalize” the specific experience of their host cultures to a striking degree. The presentations showed that the students not only *grasped* the history and complex legacies of the war, but indeed seemed to *share* the differential burdens of memory, victimhood and guilt of their host cultures while sustaining an awareness of the shared contemporary project of a united Europe. Conferences on Transatlantic Relations (2005 in Paris) and Globalization (2004 & 2005 in Berlin), attended by students of Stanford Programs on four continents, confirmed this impression.

Globalization most certainly poses similar challenges to different countries and regions. Responses to an ever faster connecting and integrating world, however, are shaped by history, political frameworks as well as social and cultural “mindsets” very unique to each country and society. In a second “Stanford Siemens Lufthansa Conference on Globalization”, which took place in Berlin from May 26 to 28th, Stanford students from around the world, students of Siemens “Topaz” program and Lufthansa trainees were given ample opportunity to explore the – needless to say – “global phenomenon of globalization” from local perspectives, present “their country’s” outlook on globalization, and understand certain aspects of globalization somewhat deeper through discussions in study groups.

Presentations from the various Overseas Campuses opening the conference exposed this dialectic of global challenges versus local responses quite clearly. The presentation by students of Stanford’s new program in Beijing focused not only on the economic reforms undertaken by former Party Leader Deng Xiao Ping and the country’s role as a global economic powerhouse but on a “short introduction into China’s long history”. Taking into consideration that this history dates back no less than 3000 years and that a “short introduction” might sound like a somewhat ambitious undertaking, Beijing’s presentation still gave an excellent idea about the forces shaping China’s proud self-image as a regional and world power and the difficult legacy of Mao’s dictatorship that had destroyed civil society and had left a country so rich in human and natural resources in deep poverty.

Latin America long suffered from an image as the “US’ backyard”, a continent hindered in its develop-

ment by authoritarian regimes and a deep mistrust in multinational corporations as the main driving forces of globalization (dating back to often misguided US-interference), as the student delegation from the Santiago program drove home. Chile, however, seems to be a prime example of self-confidently integrating into a world economy, while carefully protecting itself from the “cruel sea of capital” (*The Economist*) that had hit countries like Argentina and Mexico so hard.

In contrast to Latin America and East Asia, Europa is looking back to a long process of integration that has brought the continent the longest period of peace and prosperity in its troubled history. Long understood as the optimal way of dealing with world wide competition created by globalization, it seems, however, that this process (and EU-enlargement) might pose not only solutions but difficult problems as well. The Oxford and Florence Programs’ presentations pointed into a direction that recently was proven by the reality of the EU’s financial summit’s failure. Does the EU create too many limits on a country’s ability to independently formulate it’s own fiscal and economic policy? Is more liberalization needed, as Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair claims? Or is globalization in the form of “unhindered capitalism” rather perceived as threatening, as the Paris and Berlin Programs (in a reference to the recent “capitalism debate” in Germany) implied, and the EU not sufficiently equipped to protect European culture and one of Europe’s proudest achievements – the welfare state – against the rough tides of globalization?

Not only the Stanford Programs’ presentations revealed that the world is anything but flat. A look at a map of Siemens branches revealed: Siemens might be one of Germany’s few “truly global” corporations; it’s activities, however, are still very much restricted to the industrialized nations and developing countries in East and South East Asia. Africa and huge parts of the Middle East are blank spots on Siemens’ world map.

Bridging the Gaps

It would be hard to think of a phenomenon as ideologically charged as globalization. While pro-globalizers want to see an all-out-cure for almost all ills of our contemporary world in opening markets, liberalization and integration, globalization-critics fear the negative impacts of those same dynamic forces: an erosion of the nation state, an ever growing divide between rich and poor, the destruction of local cultures on behalf of a “mindless, only consumer-oriented Americanization.” The mandatory readings for this conference – Canadian journalist’s Naomi Klein’s thoroughly anti-corporation and highly popular book “No logo” and *Financial Time’s* ▶

columnist's Martin Wolf's "Why globalization works" – were meant to take account of this ideological divide. Too much so? "All too often, proponents and opponents of globalization end up talking past each other", Professor Eric Roberts noted in his excellent keynote speech. He preferred an approach of finding middleground and "bridging the gap" by referring to authors like Joseph Stiglitz or George Soros and their "much more thought-provoking books". Can, however, this ideological gap be bridged, or should it be addressed openly?

It might, be one of the many contradictions of globalization that while some common ground is revealed, almost on the same lines rifts are exposed. Technological progress, internet and low costs of communication have set in motion a process of integration that at least in part, created a global village. Transnational corporations certainly have benefitted from lower costs of transportation and communication. In his dynamic and thought-provoking keynote speech, however, Siemens' Dr. Uriel Sharef pointed out that multinational corporations certainly are the main drivers of globalization but are driven themselves by almost relentless compe-

titution and a constant pressure to innovate and adapt to the rapidly changing world of technology.

Economic growth has helped developing countries like China to fight poverty on a so far unforeseen level. But economic growth requires natural resources, like oil. What, Professor Amos Nur asked, if that thirst for oil becomes unquenchable? Is a dynamic process like globalization really irreversible? Or are we moving into a new conflict over resources?

Conferences are meant to reveal, rather than bridge different views and opinions. They are only as good as they are able to engage their participants in lively discussions. Overhearing students debating different issues of globalization over breakfast or eagerly exchanging different views on globalization in their respective host countries indicates that this conference was a success. ■

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Impressum

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