



STEUBEN-SCHURZ-GESELLSCHAFT E.V.

Älteste deutsch-amerikanische Freundschaftsorganisation
Providing stability and friendship in a challenging environment

USA Interns 10 Years – a great Success Story

- December 2009 -



USA Interns: the name has become a program

- It stands for meaningful German-American Friendship
- It promotes sincere and mutual understanding between young Germans and Americans
- For the intern participants it provides a durable authentic experience of culture and work life in the respective country
- It allows the interns to be ambassadors of their countries

USA Interns: This name stands for intercultural enrichment

- It offers the opportunity for a study-relevant internship for up to several months for university students; i.e. for Germans in a USA-based company, for Americans in a German-based company
- It is appreciated by companies as an extension and enrichment of their inter-cultural contacts

USA Interns: 10 Years – a Story of Success 1998/99-2009

Great thanks go to the sponsors – be they *companies, institutions or private sponsors* - without their support the largest public service project of the Steuben-Schurz-Society could not be realized – the success is their contribution to

the strengthening of transatlantic partnership – so important in economy, politics and society in Germany and the United States and increasingly important in the times of globalization.



USA-Interns 2009 walk around after an „orientation seminar“ – Obligatory stop over in front of the Carl-Schurz-plaque at the Pauls Church, also Frankfurt from above with USA Interns group 2008

It was in 1999, when the former President *David T. Fisher*, initiated the *USA Interns Program*. Starting in 2001, he was assisted by *Katharina Stüber*, in expanding the program for the Steuben-Schurz-Society. She did this with great dedication, commitment, energy, and on an honorary basis. Continued by *Tamsin Barford* from 2003 through 2006, the USA-Interns program has become closely identified with the

name of the Steuben-Schurz-Society for now more than ten years. Compared with other public service programs, the USA Interns concept is unique.

A workload of nearly 400 applications have been operationally managed.

Since 2007 it is *Juliane Adameit* who is doing the job and who has extended the program considerably also by including it into various intercultural networks and scholar platforms. (including the AlumniPortal-Deutschland).

A celebration for „their Interns” takes place every year when the Society sends out their invitations to the traditional *Barbecue*. The venues are selected fine „locations“, such as the Frankfurter GolfClub, the Meeting House of the Frankfurter Rudergesellschaft, the garden of the Residence of the American Consulate General in Frankfurt am Main.

Barbecue in front of the Gesellschaftshaus der Frankfurter Rudergesellschaft Germania 1869



Interns as Special Guests at the Barbecue in the Frankfurter GolfClub, coordinator Juliane Adameit serving Hessen-Pralinés as a surprise

In those ambiances the guests are welcomed with “meat from the roast, salads and surprises” – once also thanks to marketing-talented Juliane Adameit, when guests could taste delicate Hessen-Pralinés.

The Barbecue occurs on the same day when the President of the Society, *Dr. Ingrid Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels*, hands out certificates to those Interns – elected from a large number of applicants - that documents their participation in the Interns program.

According to President Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels, the Society’s sponsored internships reflect also the motto: to live and to work with friends. She emphasises how important it is for the interns to experience a marked time in another country in respect for one another’s culture and way of life. Interns benefit from early experiences “on the job”.



Barbecue

.....outdoor feeling



Barbecue 2007 in the Garden of the US Consul General’s residence in Frankfurt and in the Frankfurter GolfClub 2008



Learning by Doing – but before Doing a start with an “Orientierungsseminar”



The saying „Learning by doing“ sounds good for the USA Interns-coordinator Juliane Adameit. For her this means first of all the students’ attendance for a briefing she gives at an orientation seminar which provides general guidelines with regard to German business life, culture and society. This seminar has already been a good occasion for Public Affairs-Consuls, in 2009 it was *Jeanine Collins*, from the US-Consulate General or *President Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels* to attend the seminar and be prepared for questions, answers and discussions.



Theory is a must: It starts with an introduction of the USA-Interns-participants at an inter-cultural „orientation seminar“ 2009

President Dr. Ingrid Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels was also glad to be present to take part in discussions at a seminar organized by the Steuben-Schurz-Society at the *Frankfurt Book Fair 2008*. “Germany-USA in changing times – life-long learning for all generations“ was the topic for which Juliane Adameit contributed interesting statistics and background information.



SSG-workshop on „Life-long learning“ in USA and Germany at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2008

„Doing“, this also includes a walk around the city to some of Frankfurt’s sight-seeing highlights. Important facts on the city and German culture, customs and habits will give some first interesting insights on German life, mentality and culture in the daily mainstream for the American interns.

Live-presentation of the Steuben-Schurz-Society, its commitments and projects including their most important public service project, the USA Interns Program, has repeatedly been organized at the Newcomers Festival in the Römer, Frankfurt’s City Hall.

For President Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels it is a certainty: The USA Interns-Program stands for the SSG’s motto in a particular realistic way:

„Stability and Friendship in a Challenging Environment“

Newcomers-Festival in the Frankfurter Römer



President Dr. Ingrid zu Solms-Wildenfels, Vice President Dr. Thomas F. Young and USA-Interns-Coordinator Juliane Adameit discussing the SSG and the Interns-Program

With this program the „human links between the two peoples are strengthened, and the young American interns experience in live situations what it really means when it says: Made in Germany“. Her view of the Interns program is: To return from an internship in Germany and the United States as friends of their respective guest country. That is, according to Dr. Ingrid Gräfin zu Solms, a welcome side-effect of the USA-Interns-Program.

A good occasion to present essentials and details of the Society and its Interns program in an informal and entertaining way has been repeatedly offered at the *International Stammtisch-Meet and Mingle in Mainhattan in the English Theatre*



The Society offers Infotainment and Quiche at the International Stammtisch in the English Theatre

A *Sponsorship Program*, initiated in 2009 by Vice President *Sandra Paul*, has helped to strengthen the USA Interns-Program. Become a sponsor and take part personally in the promotion of young students, support bilateral cultural exchange, enhance transatlantic partnership: This is what a personal sponsorship can offer. The Society certifies this valuable engagement in a special sponsorship document.

Feedback

from USA Interns participants

Such a program is reflected best in the participants' feedback. Communication and correspondence on application, selection or details of organization includes numerous feedbacks by students as well as representatives of companies. They also present many items of mutual benefit both sides have when internships come about.

Last but not least newspapers and special magazines in print and online, time and again publish articles on the experiences and „adventures“ the participants have made during their internships - „personal career stories“, as coordinator Adameit likes to call these reports.

Thus, a German student who had an internship in Chicago writes, how grateful she is „to be part of such an amazing program“, that the Interns-Program „opened new possibilities“ and she experienced great personal benefit. She concluded her letter by saying that the Steuben-Schurz-Program helps „connecting employers and interns across borders“.



FAZnet (an online portal of the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) reports on the daily life of an American intern student from Minneapolis who works in a German consulting company – to get the interns was a „glücklicher Zufall“, a happy incident, as the participant calls it.

An American student who received an internship in a company in Karlsruhe had – as he puts it – „an awesome experience“. He thus had the chance „to put yourself out there and meet new people and experience new things“. Yes, he emphasizes, „USA Interns was a great help... it is a great program“. Without help and support he could not have realized such an important experience at the beginning of his professional career.



Another American intern confirms that „placement was optimal and the application process uncomplicated and quite fast“. And one more American student points out that „my experience with your service was overwhelmingly positive“. Referring to the company he was impressed at „the quality of the companies that the USA Interns program offers“, he will „recommend the service to my fellow students here at Boston College“. In her letter to the interns office a student confirms that she had good experiences, personally and with

regard to support, training and work life, with her Host Organization.

Feedback from a German company in the public relations branch says that the selection of the interns applicant was perfect and announces its continued interest in finding another suitable candidate for another internship.

The president of the Friendship Society Hesse-Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, *Detlef Moore*, sent out his appreciation to the interns office stating that the cooperation with the selected German student „was excellent as our summer intern this year“ and points to the IAO-Newsletter with a note with her photo.



Sponsors – Supporters into the future of German-American partnership and cooperation

A Win-Win-Situation for both partners: the Sponsors and the Sponsored

The United States of America and Germany: This is the story of a special kind of relationship. This relationship was constantly marked by personalities such as Wilhelm von Steuben, the Army Inspector General of George Washington, or by Carl Schurz, the political associate of Abraham Lincoln.

The German-American partnership can only be realized in concrete projects, friendship between Germans and Americans be strengthened only in personal, social or cultural relations and individual business-to-business connections, experiences and projects. One of those projects is the USA Interns and Sponsorship program.

The Steuben-Schurz-Society thanks all sponsors. Their financial support will secure the USA Interns and Sponsorship program into the future (scha).



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