About the

The American Council on Germany is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit organization that was founded in 1952 to strengthen German-American relations. Today, the ACG works across generations to provide a deeper, more nuanced understanding about Germany, Europe, and the importance of the transatlantic partnership. Through a range of programs and activities, the ACG addresses the most pressing economic, political, and social challenges of the day to ensure better mutual understanding.

The ACG’s programs and activities are aimed at reaching a broad range of individuals to strengthen German-American relations and deepen the U.S.-European partnership. This is achieved through a combination of events and outreach designed to reach different audiences on both sides of the Atlantic to make sure they are better informed about transatlantic issues.

The Council is committed to:

Forging Mutual Understanding of Tomorrow’s Challenges
The ACG equips opinion leaders and decision-makers in a variety of fields with ideas and perspectives on important political, economic, and social developments on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world. The Council’s policy discussions, conferences, and other programs engage multipliers from nongovernmental organizations, government, business, academia, the military, and media on both sides of the Atlantic. On issues such as environmental sustainability, trade relations, security policy, and urban development, to name just a few, the ACG provides a forum to examine challenges facing our societies and to propose possible strategies and collaborative solutions for the future.

Shaping Tomorrow’s Leaders
The ACG invests in the future of the transatlantic relationship by helping the next generation of leaders in Germany and the United States learn about this indispensable partnership, exchange best practices, and build networks across the Atlantic. The American-German Young Leaders Conferences, fellowships, and leadership missions bring together the next generation of German and American academics, journalists, and other professionals from diverse fields to deepen their understanding of transatlantic issues while forging lasting bonds with one another.

Addressing Global Issues Nationwide
The ACG recognizes the importance of presenting global issues not only to policymakers in Washington, DC, and business leaders in New York, but also to decision-makers and practitioners at the local level in communities across the United States. Through its 21 Eric M. Warburg Chapters, the ACG provides its members and the general public with opportunities to engage with their counterparts in Germany to address the most pressing economic, political, and social issues on the transatlantic agenda that are affecting their communities.

Informing Members and the Community at Large
The ACG keeps its members and friends informed through a range of programs, activities, and updates, including its weekly news digest, Hot Topics Calls, and podcasts. In addition, the Council reaches across generations, sectors, and regional boundaries to inform the community at large about important issues influencing the transatlantic partnership.
A Message from the President

In the early 1950s, a small group of women and men had the foresight to create an organization dedicated to promoting transatlantic relations and to changing the perception of Germany in the United States after the first half of the 20th century. Although the world has changed considerably since then, the role the American Council on Germany plays today to strengthen ties across the Atlantic is more important than ever.

In January 2017, almost exactly 65 years after its founding, the ACG kicked off the year with a discussion with the German Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Ambassador Harald Braun talked about the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity of today’s world. In many senses, 2017 epitomized the uncertainty of this era. A new U.S. President took office in a divided nation following one of the most divisive election campaigns in modern history. At the same time, many Europeans looked ahead to the year’s elections at the state and national level across the continent with trepidation given the rise of populism and the polarization of politics. With the election results in the Netherlands, France, and even Germany, Europe largely dodged a populist bullet. However, the ascendancy of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) to the Bundestag and the political wrangling to form a new government caused additional angst.

It is fair to say that in 2017 both the United States and the European Union, as well as individual member states, were inward-looking. The “America First” rhetoric in the United States and the preoccupation with elections in Europe and coalition-building in Europe were impediments to a vibrant and dynamic transatlantic partnership. Yet, at the end of the year it appeared as though we had come full circle. At an ACG event in December, the new German Permanent Representative to the UN – and former National Security Advisor to the Chancellor – Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, and the President of the Council on Foreign Relations, Richard Haass, discussed the future of multilateralism in light of today’s global challenges. Together they contended – as did other speakers over the course of the year – that the transatlantic relationship is indispensable in meeting common challenges in a complex global environment.

In addition to holding almost 50 policy discussions in New York City and Washington, DC, during the year, the Council continued its newer initiatives to respond to current developments, including its Hot Topics conference calls, podcasts, and weekly news digest. Through the ACG’s efforts to cultivate future transatlanticists, more than 1,100 rising stars have participated in the American-German Young Leaders Conference since its inception, including the newly minted German Consul General in New York, David Gill. The ACG has also supported the work of more than 1,100 fellows who have traveled across the Atlantic to exchange best practices, learn, and conduct research.

2017 saw not only the ACG’s 65th anniversary but also the 25th anniversary both of our formalized national outreach through a network of 21 Eric M. Warburg Chapters and the John J. McCloy Awards Dinner. The ACG honored Wolfgang Kirsch, the head of DZ BANK, with a McCloy Award for supporting a strong transatlantic alliance, as well as the ACG’s work. At the dinner, Mr. Kirsch announced the launch of a new fellowship focused on deepening understanding of the global economy in a transatlantic context. The ACG’s outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt, was honored with the 2017 Leadership Award for his steadfast roles as “a dedicated Chairman and a passionate transatlanticist,” as Chancellor Merkel described him in a letter read at the dinner.

In January 2018, after nearly seven years as the ACG’s indefatigable Chairman, Ambassador Kimmit formally passed the baton to Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International. Ambassador Kimmitt had served as U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1991 to 1993, and his successor as ACG Chairman served in this same role from 2013 to 2017. Ambassador Emerson previously addressed ACG audiences on various occasions and had traveled to Germany in 1988 on an ACG Political Exchange Fellowship. The ACG is extremely grateful to Ambassador Kimmitt for his committed service, and is very pleased to work with Ambassador Emerson in this new capacity.

Much as the world was coming to terms with a new world order in the 1950s following the devastation of two world wars, today the United States and a unified Germany face a global environment with a host of domestic and foreign challenges. In its 65-plus-year history, the ACG has been gratified to invest in the future of the transatlantic relationship by analyzing these challenges, building strong networks, and cultivating new generations of transatlanticists. Together with you, we will keep strengthening one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world today.

March 2018
Policy Programs
2017 Calendar of Events

TRANSATLANTIC GLOBAL AGENDA SERIES
The Transatlantic Global Agenda Series, which was launched in 2011, gives ACG members and friends access to policymakers and other thought leaders to delve into global issues that have an impact on the transatlantic partnership. Through 2017, the program was organized by the Council in cooperation with American Friends of Bucerius, and the events were hosted by Alston & Bird LLP.

HOT TOPICS CALLS
Hot Topics Calls connect ACG members and friends on a conference call with experts and officials who share their insights on the latest headlines.

January 12 – Political Salon with Simon Book (2016 Kellen Fellow), journalist at WirtschaftsWoche, on “Is TTIP Dead? The Future of Transatlantic Trade,” held in cooperation with Cultural Vistas


January 31 – Breakfast Briefing with General Michael Hayden, Principal at the Chertoff Group and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), on “The Transatlantic Partnership in an Age of Terrorism and Tectonic Shifts” in Washington, DC, hosted by Volkswagen Group of America

February 3 – Hot Topics Call with Dr. Sergey Lagodinsky, Head of the EU/North America Department at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung in Berlin, on rising populism, growing political polarization, and elections in Europe, specifically Germany

February 9 – Discussion and reception with Dr. Johannes Beermann, member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank, on “The Euro Area: The Current Economic Situation and the Ongoing Need for Institutional Reforms,” hosted by Dentons US LLP

February 18 – Breakfast Briefing on “Challenges and Choices: Priorities for the Transatlantic Partnership” at the Munich Security Conference featuring General David Petraeus, former Director of the CIA, and Bundestag member Dr. Norbert Röttgen (CDU), held in cooperation with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)

February 27 – Discussion and luncheon with Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers, former Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia and former German Federal Minister for Education, Science, Research, and Technology, on “Germany in the Super Election Year 2017: Implications for Germany’s Standing in Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship,” hosted by Dentons US LLP

March 14 – Breakfast Briefing with Ursula Groden-Kranich, member of the German Bundestag (CDU), on “Efforts at the UN and in Germany to Promote Gender Equity in a Changing Work Environment,” held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

March 29 – Annual Meeting of the Members, featuring a keynote address by Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, former President of the World Bank and a former ACG Board member, on “Five American Foreign Policy Traditions: How Does President Trump’s Approach Stack Up?”
McCloy Awards Dinner Honors DZ BANK CEO and ACG Chairman

Three hundred people gathered for the American Council on Germany’s 25th annual McCloy Awards Dinner in New York City on June 22, 2017, to honor Wolfgang Kirsch, Chief Executive Officer of DZ BANK AG, and Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt, Chairman of the ACG, for their committed work to strengthen transatlantic cooperation. ACG Board member Tammy S. Murphy of Murphy Endeavors underlined the importance of the ACG’s work at this critical time for the transatlantic relationship. Ambassador Philip D. Murphy, then the Democratic candidate for New Jersey Governor, presented the McCloy Award to Mr. Kirsch and the Leadership Award to Ambassador Kimmitt. Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States, commented on the role of the ACG and the importance of the bilateral relationship and also read a letter from Chancellor Merkel. Economist David R. Malpass, then President Trump’s nominee for Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, shared a letter from the President. As part of the Council’s 65th-anniversary celebration, ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol discussed the Council’s work to promote transatlantic ties through the years – and going forward.

ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; ACG Chairman Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt, recipient of the 2017 Leadership Award; ACG Board member Tammy S. Murphy of Murphy Endeavors; Wolfgang Kirsch, Chief Executive Officer of DZ BANK AG, recipient of the 2017 McCloy Award; and Ambassador Philip D. Murphy, then New Jersey Democratic gubernatorial candidate (Photo by Clark Jones)

July 30-August 4 – American-German Young Leaders Conference on “Walls or Bridges? The Transatlantic Relationship in Turbulent Times” in Munich and Berlin

September 6 – Goldman Sachs and Handelsblatt live talk with Lloyd Blankfein, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

September 19 – Breakfast Briefing with David Gill (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York, on “Germany: Final Countdown to the Elections,” sponsored by DZ BANK AG

September 22 – Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership (TEP) meeting with Berlin startups at Berlin Partner

September 23-October 4 – McCloy Leadership Mission on Urban Affairs and Sustainability to Berlin, Cologne, Karlsruhe, Leipzig, and Mannheim

September 24 – Germany Decides: Election Watch Party, held in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut, the German Consulate General in New York, and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

September 25 – Hot Topics Call with Rüdiger Lentz, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Germany, on the results of the German election

September 25 – Panel discussion with Dr. Sheri Berman, Professor of Political Science at Barnard College and Columbia University; Thomas Jahn, New York Correspondent at Handelsblatt; and Dr. Christian Martin, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University, moderated by Dr. Steven E. Sokol, President of the American Council on Germany, on “After the German Federal Election: Analyzing the Results and Looking Ahead,” held in cooperation with Deutsches Haus at NYU, NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, the CUNY European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies

October 5 – Discussion and reception with Nico Lange, Director of the Washington Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and Jeffrey Rathke, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), on “Parsing Germany’s Election Results and Coalition Negotiations,” held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

October 9-12 – Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership (TEP) Conference on “Smart Urban Future: Data and Development,” held in cooperation with Berlin Partner, the German Consulate General in New York, and New York International

October 11 – Breakfast Briefing with Christian Rickerts, Berlin State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Energy, and Public Enterprises, on “Lessons Learned from Berlin’s Innovation and Digital Transformation,” hosted by DZ BANK AG

October 13 – Discussion and luncheon with Ambassador Thomas Matussek, former senior German diplomat and Senior Advisor at Flint Global in Berlin, on “Three Elections and a Brexit: The Unraveling of Europe?” hosted by PwC Strategy&

October 16 – Hot Topics Call with Andreas Kluth, Editor-in-Chief of Handelsblatt Global, on the election results in Lower Saxony, as well as German and European politics

October 16 – Discussion and reception with Dr. Robin Mishra (2005 Young Leader), Minister-Counselor and Head of the Science and Technology Section at the German Embassy, and ACG Board member Christopher M. Schroeder (1991 YL), an internet entrepreneur and investor, on “Digitalization and the Future of Work,” held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Dentons US LLP
October 20 – Discussion and luncheon with Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, Foreign Editor at Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, on “The Merkel Regime – Germany After the Election,” hosted by NORD/LB

October 27 – Discussion and luncheon as part of the Transatlantic Global Agenda Series with Dr. Angela Stent (1982 Young Leader), Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies and Professor of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University, on “Russia and the West: What’s Next?” held in cooperation with American Friends of Bucerius and hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

October 30 – Reception for the ACG Board of Directors, Young Leader alumni, and corporate members with Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence in Washington, DC

November 2 – Political Salon with Christopher Cermak, Editor at Handelsblatt Global, on “Polarization, Populism, and Politics in Germany and the United States: A Comparative Analysis,” held in cooperation with Deutsches Haus at NYU

November 10 – Discussion and luncheon with Dr. Guido Steinberg, Senior Associate for the Middle East and Africa at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP), on “The Evolution of International Terrorism and Its Domestic Impact,” held in cooperation with the Global Center on Cooperative Security


November 16 – Discussion and luncheon with Jürgen Hardt, member of the German Bundestag (CDU), Foreign Policy Spokesman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, and Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the Federal Foreign Office, on “We Have to Keep Talking! Transatlantic Relations in an Age of Disruption,” sponsored by DZ BANK AG

November 17 – Discussion and luncheon with Tim Wenniges (2014 Young Leader), Head of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Shanghai, on “China’s Role in the World After the 19th Party Congress,” held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

November 22 – Hot Topics Call with Dr. Christoph von Marschall (1999 Kellen Fellow), Chief Diplomatic Correspondent for Der Tagesspiegel and Helmut Schmidt Fellow of the ZEIT Foundation and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, on what went wrong in the coalition talks and what this means for Angela Merkel and Germany

November 27 – Discussion and reception with Dr. Andreas Nick, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU), on “New Priorities? Germany’s UN Policy After the Elections,” held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

November 30 – Panel discussion with Dr. Sheri Berman, Professor of Political Science at Barnard College and Columbia University; Thomas Jahn, New York Correspondent at Handelsblatt; and Dr. Christian Martin, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University, moderated by Dr. Steven E. Sokol, President of the American Council on Germany, on “The End of Jamaica, the End of Merkel? Analyzing What Happened and Predicting What Lies Ahead,” held in cooperation with Deutsches Haus at NYU and NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies

December 14 – Hot Topics Call with Jacob Poushter, Senior Researcher at the Pew Research Center, on American and German views of the bilateral relationship

December 18 – Discussion and reception with Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, and Dr. Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, moderated by Friedrich Merz, Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke and Senior Counsel at Mayer Brown LLP, on “The End of Multilateralism? Reflecting on 2017 and Looking Ahead to 2018,” held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations

December 21 – Hot Topics Call with Dr. Constanze Stelzenmüller, Robert Bosch Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution’s Center for the United States and Europe, on what the new National Security Strategy means for the transatlantic relationship
Policy Conferences

German-American Conference: “Finding Common Ground: Confronting Challenges and Setting Priorities for Europe and the United States”
May 16-17, 2017 • Berlin

The American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke hosted the fifth annual German-American Conference in Berlin, “Finding Common Ground: Confronting Challenges and Setting Priorities for Europe and the United States,” on May 16 and 17 at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. More than 400 people attended the conference, which covered topics ranging from foreign policy to trade agreements, and from national security to the rise of populism.

Highlights from the conference included a keynote address by German Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on the enduring importance of the Marshall Plan and the future of transatlantic relations, and an address by Director of National Intelligence Senator Dan Coats, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, who spoke about the Trump administration’s policies on national security. Also, at a small dinner, Donna Brazile, former Chair of the Democratic National Committee, discussed the successes and failures of the Democratic Party during the 2016 election and the party’s prospects in the midterm elections in 2018.

Other prominent speakers included Bundestag members Marieluise Beck and Omid Nouripour (both Alliance 90/The Greens) and Dr. Norbert Röttgen (CDU/CSU); John Gilbert, member of the Board of Management of Deutsche Post DHL Group; Susan Glasser, Chief of Management of Deutsche Post DHL Group; and transatlantic expansion for startups.

Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership Conference: “Smart Urban Future: Data and Development”
October 9-11, 2017 • New York City

Working with Berlin Partner, the German Consulate General in New York, and New York International, the American Council on Germany held the seventh annual Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership (TEP) Conference in New York City from October 9 to 11. TEP brings together German and American entrepreneurs and angel investors for meetings and site visits to discuss technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and transatlantic expansion for startups.

In keeping with the conference theme of “Smart Urban Future: Data and Development,” the ACG organized a series of panel discussions on October 10 focusing on smart-city technology and policy. The panels covered the challenges and opportunities that cities face within digitalization, the use of data, and mobility for social good, among other topics. Panelists included ACG Program Director and Digital Strategist Robin Cammarota; Craig Campbell, Special Advisor in New York City’s Mayor’s Office of Data Analytics; Janne Corneil, Principal with Corneil Collaborative; Nicole DuPuis, Principal Associate for Urban Innovation for City Solutions at the National League of Cities; Rachel Haot, Board member of Tech:NYC; Ole Jani, Partner at CMS. Tax. Law in Berlin; Dr. Steven E. Koonin, Director of NYU’s Center of Urban Science and Progress; Brian Langel, Co-Founder of Dash Labs Inc.; Greg Lindsay, Senior Fellow at the New Cities Foundation; Christian Rickerts, Berlin State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Energy, and Public Enterprises; Jason Whittet, who is responsible for Smart Cities Business Development at AT&T; and Jessica Wurwarg (2016 McCloy Fellow), Director of Energy Management and Sustainability at New York City’s Department of Transportation. In the evening, ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol moderated a panel discussion on urban mobility with Stefan Knupfer, Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company, and Dr. Daniel Ramot, CEO and Co-Founder of Via.

The startups that participated in the conference also had the opportunity to engage in dialogue on the most recent developments in technology, meet with venture capitalists and angel-fund investors, and network with people from both sides of the Atlantic.
Eric M. Warburg Chapters

In 2017, the American Council on Germany marked the 25th anniversary of the launch of its national outreach. The Eric M. Warburg Chapters engage local communities across the United States in discussions about transatlantic issues. Now in 21 cities, the Chapters promote a deeper understanding of German and European affairs beyond the business community in New York City and the policy community in Washington, DC. Through a variety of events and activities, the Chapters each provide a forum for the discussion of the most pressing issues on the transatlantic agenda. The ACG coordinates visits by government officials, journalists, policy analysts, academics, and substantive experts to deepen mutual understanding of common challenges and to strengthen transatlantic ties. This national outreach effort is named after ACG founder and longtime Treasurer Eric M. Warburg, a distinguished banker and transatlanticist who was ahead of his time.

In 2017, the Chapters covered topics including the elections across Europe, particularly in Germany; trade; immigration; volatility in global affairs; the future of the European Union; energy; and much more. The centerpiece of Warburg Chapter programming in 2017 was the ACG’s speaker series Restoring Trust by Engaging in Dialogue: German Perspectives on the Future of the Transatlantic Partnership, which features experts from the successor generation. Eighteen speakers shared their insights with various Chapters throughout the year through this program. The series is funded through the generous support of the ERP Program for Transatlantic Encounters through the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Other featured speakers included Daniel Andrich, President and CEO of the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT); Bundestag members Peter Beyer (CDU) and Metin Hakverdi (SPD); Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, Foreign Editor at Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung; Ambassador Thomas Matussek, former German Ambassador to the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and India; journalist Souad Mekkennet, author of I Was Told to Come Alone: My Journey Behind the Lines of Jihad; Bodo Ramelow, Minister-President of Thuringia; and Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States. Other highlights included “Arizona’s Energy Resilience Summit: Local to Global Perspectives” at the Phoenix Warburg Chapter.

While each Chapter is unique, they all have tremendous convening power in the communities they serve. As the ACG’s outreach program has grown over the past 25 years, the Chapters have brought transatlantic perspectives to thousands of Americans across the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Then & Now

In 1992, the ACG launched its first Warburg Chapters to bring policy discussions on transatlantic relations to cities across the United States. Lionel Pincus made a five-year grant in honor of his business partner, Eric M. Warburg, to the Council to finance the establishment of Eric M. Warburg Chapters in select U.S. cities. Beginning with Richmond and Dallas, this outreach initiative was later expanded across the country. Chapter events have brought thousands of Americans into the bilateral discourse who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Today, the ACG has 21 Chapters, in 18 states.
Dr. Martin Ruebelt of Monsanto; Daniel Henke-Cilenti of Nestle; Ulrike K. Schlafly, St. Louis Warburg Chapter Director and a former ACG Board member; speaker Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States; Tom Schlafly of Schlafly Beer; and Dr. Joyce Mushaben of the University of Missouri – St. Louis, author of Becoming Madam Chancellor: Angela Merkel and the Berlin Republic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Highlights from the Speaker Series on Restoring Trust by Engaging in Dialogue: German Perspectives on the Future of the Transatlantic Partnership

February
Speaker: Jan F. Kallmorgen, CEO of Berlin Global Advisors
Topic: The Euro-Atlantic alliance
Chapters visited: Atlanta, Boca Raton, and Dallas

Speaker: Dr. Cornelia Schu, Managing Director of the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration (SVR) and Director of the Expert Council’s Research Unit
Topic: Immigration in Germany
Chapters visited: Atlanta, Indianapolis, San Francisco, and Seattle

March
Speaker: Benjamin Rohé (2011 Young Leader and 2014 ACG Entrepreneur Fellow), Co-Founder of GERMANTECH DIGITAL and Founding Managing Director of the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC)
Chapters visited: Charlotte, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Seattle

April
Speaker: Max Gruenig, President of Ecologic Institute US
Topic: Urban sustainability in Germany
Chapters visited: Denver, Los Angeles, Nashville, and San Francisco

May
Speaker: Anja Wehler-Schoeck, Resident Director, Jordan and Iraq, at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Amman, Jordan
Topic: Preserving stability in Jordan
Chapters visited: Boston, Cleveland, Denver, and Seattle

Speaker: Cornelius Adebahr, Nonresident Fellow at Carnegie Europe
Topic: Iran’s relationship with Europe and the United States
Chapters visited: Boca Raton, Boston, Charlotte, and Chicago

Speaker: Dr. Eckart Woertz, Senior Research Fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and Scientific Advisor to the Kuwait Chair at Sciences Po in Paris
Topic: European energy security and the U.S. shale boom
Chapters visited: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Seattle

June
Speaker: Dr. Angela Stanzel, Policy Fellow in the Asia and China Program of the European Council on Foreign Relations
Topic: Global trade and German perspectives on global free trade
Chapters visited: Dallas, Nashville, Phoenix, and Pittsburgh

September
Speaker: Christine Benz, D.B.A., Training Manager at TRUMPF, Inc.
Topic: Workforce development
Chapters visited: Charlotte, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Nashville, Philadelphia, and Greater Washington

October
Speaker: Dr. Patrick Keller, Coordinator for Foreign and Security Policy at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Berlin
Topic: Germany’s new administration
Chapters visited: Denver, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Greater Washington

Speaker: Dr. Jan Philipp Burgard, correspondent and Deputy Bureau Chief of the German TV network ARD in Washington, DC
Topic: The changing dynamic of German-U.S. relations
Chapters visited: Charlotte, Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Francisco, and Seattle
**Speaker:** Professor Birgit Glorius, Associate Professor at the Technical University in Chemnitz  
**Topic:** The role of central Europe in the European integration process  
**Chapters visited:** Charlotte, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Philadelphia

**November**  
**Speaker:** Dr. Jana Puglierin, Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)  
**Topic:** The future of the EU  
**Chapters visited:** Boca Raton, Boston, Denver, and San Francisco

**Speaker:** Eckart von Unger, Senior Manager at the Federation of German Industries (BDI)  
**Topic:** U.S.-EU trade relations  
**Chapters visited:** Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, and Madison

**Speaker:** Dr. Sebastian Voigt, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary History Munich – Berlin  
**Topic:** Right-wing populism in Germany and the rise of the Alternative for Germany (AfD)  
**Chapters visited:** Boca Raton, Florida, Charlotte, Minnesota, and Philadelphia

**December**  
**Speaker:** Juliane Schäuble, Head of the Political Section at Der Tagesspiegel  
**Topic:** The outcome of the German elections and the potential change in Germany’s foreign policy, especially toward Russia and the United States  
**Chapters visited:** Atlanta, Nashville, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco

**Speaker:** Dr. Alexander Görlach, Affiliate Professor at Harvard University  
**Topic:** Islam in Europe  
**Chapters visited:** Atlanta, Boston, and Seattle
Strengthening Transatlantic Dialogue

The 2017 American-German Young Leaders atop the Reichstag

Programs for the Successor Generation
XXXIX American-German Young Leaders Conference

The American Council on Germany’s American-German Young Leaders Conference brings together up to 50 rising stars from a cross-section of fields for a week of intensive dialogue about domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting both countries. The conference enhances participants’ understanding of the current international agenda, deepens mutual understanding, and builds lasting connections among the next generation of thought leaders and decision-makers from the United States and Germany.

With the theme of “Walls or Bridges? The Transatlantic Relationship in Turbulent Times,” the XXXIX American-German Young Leaders Conference took place the first week of August in Berlin. The 2017 Young Leaders represented the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, media, the military, and government, including the German Chancellery, the Ministry of Defense, the Foreign Office, and a state Senate. The group exchanged ideas and perspectives in plenary sessions and working groups, met with officials and analysts to hear their behind-the-scenes insights, set an agenda for top priorities on the transatlantic agenda, brainstormed policy solutions, and, importantly, forged bonds with one another.

The Young Leaders met privately with speakers including Dr. Joachim Bertele, Deputy National Security Advisor at the Federal Chancellery; Dr. Emily Haber, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior; Dr. Volker Helmer, of the Coordination Staff for Refugee Policy at the Federal Chancellery; Steffen Kampeter, Director General and member of the President Board of the Confederation of German Employers’ Associations (BDA); Martin Kelleners, Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General of the Federal Budget; Kent Logsdon, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin; Vice Admiral Joachim Rühle, Deputy Chief of Defense at the Federal Ministry of Defense; Dr. Georg Schütte, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Philipp Steinberg, Director-General for Economic Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy; Johannes Vogel, General Secretary of the FDP-North Rhine-Westphalia; Dirk Wiese, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy; and journalists Ali Aslan (2010 Young Leader), Matthias Deiss (2008 YL), and Anton Troianovski (2015 YL).

The group toured the Reichstag and the Chancellery, and also visited Q205 “MINDSPACE” to discuss the evolution of startups and innovation in Berlin and beyond with Benjamin Rohé (2011 YL and 2014 ACG Entrepreneur Fellow), Managing Director of the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC); Ludwig Preller (2014 YL), CEO and Co-Founder of GERMANTECH DIGITAL; and Dennis Wetzig (2016 YL), CEO of PIXRAY GmbH.

In crafting a list of top political, economic, and security priorities for the transatlantic relationship, the Young Leaders cited issues such as the economy, jobs, regulations, and international trade; relations with North Korea and Russia; cybersecurity and data privacy; security and military cooperation; education; climate change; and refugees. They analyzed the meaning of nationality, the changing faces of society, and the spread of populism. They role-played U.S. and German positions on Brexit, climate change following the U.S. exit from the Paris accord, the future of NATO, and the Syrian conflict. And they got a primer on the then-upcoming German elections, as well as possible constellations of coalition partners. The Young Leaders considered what common values, principles, and/or interests characterize the transatlantic relationship – and whether current disagreements could jeopardize future relations. And last but not least, they laid the groundwork for enduring friendships.
It was a highlight of my career and my life… I have gained such an appreciation for our transatlantic partnership, I have built such great relationships on both sides, and I learned so much about government, culture, and the fact that we do have the power to make change. We are in turbulent times both in the U.S. as well as in Germany. Yet what I gained out of the week is a sense of optimism that we shall overcome.

– RASHEQ ZARIF
Head of Business Innovation
Mercedes-Benz Research & Development North America, Inc.
Strengthening Transatlantic Dialogue

While each American-German Young Leaders Conference lasts for only one week, the bonds formed among the Young Leaders are enduring. In 2017, alumni from more than 40 years of the program met at various events to reconnect with one another and meet new faces from other years of the conference.

On May 17, the ACG held a Young Leader alumni event in Berlin with Gordon Repinski, a reporter at Der Spiegel; Atika Shubert, Senior International Correspondent at CNN; and Anton Troianovski (2015 Young Leader), Germany Correspondent at the Wall Street Journal, moderated by journalist Ali Aslan (2010 YL). At a time when “fake news” blurs the lines between fact and fiction, this group of prestigious journalists tackled the topic “Democracy Under Threat? Public Discourse and Political Culture in a Changing Media Environment.” The event was held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Vodafone. On June 8, Young Leader alumni met for a reception in San Francisco with Dr. Stefan Schlueter, German Consul General in San Francisco, at his Residence. On October 16, the ACG honed in on “Digitalization and the Future of Work” at a discussion and reception for alumni with Dr. Robin Mishra (2005 YL), Minister-Counselor and Head of the Science and Technology Section at the German Embassy, and ACG Board member Christopher M. Schroeder (1991 YL), an internet entrepreneur and investor. That event was held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Dentons US LLP. And on October 30, Young Leader alumni were treated to a reception with Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence in Washington, DC.

Alumni also met informally around the United States and Europe throughout the year to continue the transatlantic dialogue that began at the Young Leaders Conference.

Young Leader Alumni Meet and Reconnect

While each American-German Young Leaders Conference lasts for only one week, the bonds formed among the Young Leaders are enduring. In 2017, alumni from more than 40 years of the program met at various events to reconnect with one another and meet new faces from other years of the conference.

On May 17, the ACG held a Young Leader alumni event in Berlin with Gordon Repinski, a reporter at Der Spiegel, Atika Shubert, Senior International Correspondent at CNN; and Anton Troianovski (2015 Young Leader), Germany Correspondent at the Wall Street Journal, moderated by journalist Ali Aslan (2010 YL). At a time when “fake news” blurs the lines between fact and fiction, this group of prestigious journalists tackled the topic “Democracy Under Threat? Public Discourse and Political Culture in a Changing Media Environment.” The event was held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Vodafone. On June 8, Young Leader alumni met for a reception in San Francisco with Dr. Stefan Schlueter, German Consul General in San Francisco, at his Residence. On October 16, the ACG honed in on “Digitalization and the Future of Work” at a discussion and reception for alumni with Dr. Robin Mishra (2005 YL), Minister-Counselor and Head of the Science and Technology Section at the German Embassy, and ACG Board member Christopher M. Schroeder (1991 YL), an internet entrepreneur and investor. That event was held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Dentons US LLP. And on October 30, Young Leader alumni were treated to a reception with Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence in Washington, DC.

Alumni also met informally around the United States and Europe throughout the year to continue the transatlantic dialogue that began at the Young Leaders Conference.

Then & Now

The American-German Young Leaders Conference was launched in 1973, after ACG Vice Chairman John Diebold conceptualized the idea of a Young Leaders Conference to identify the future government, business, military, and media leaders in Germany and the U.S., bring them together for a week of discussions and networking, and send them home with a lifelong commitment to the relationship and a continuing involvement in transatlantic affairs. Many of the 1,000-plus alumni have gone on to serve as leaders in governments and at multinational corporations, banks, the press, and more.
Fellowships
For more than 40 years, the American Council on Germany’s fellowship programs have given young professionals the opportunity to conduct research on timely topics that have an impact on transatlantic relations and exchange best practices. Each year, the ACG awards fellowships to up-and-coming journalists, scholars, and policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2017, the ACG awarded 11 fellowships.

MCCLOY FELLOWSHIPS ON GLOBAL TRENDS
With the goal of tackling tomorrow’s challenges today, the McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends are awarded to mid-career professionals to address overarching issues that affect communities around the world — but especially in Germany and the United States — in the areas of urbanization, climate change and sustainability, technological breakthroughs, and demographics and social change. Fellows conduct research on their chosen subject while building connections with their transatlantic counterparts.

In 2017, the ACG named six McCloy Fellows: Amanda Acheson, Sustainable Building Program Manager for Coconino County in Arizona, who is conducting research on creating sustainable communities through local leadership; Jamie Bemis, Account Manager for Bright Power, who is exploring innovative responses to climate change; Jeffrey Kruth, Senior Urban Designer at the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, who is investigating postindustrial futures in Germany; Lauren McCloy, Legislative Director at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, who is researching consumer protection in the digital economy; Bettina Oberhauser, Editor at Hessischer Rundfunk, who is exploring new forms of urban mobility; and freelance journalist Kerstin Ruskowski, who is examining new ideas for attaining a more-sustainable lifestyle.

HUNT FELLOWSHIPS
The Dr. Richard M. Hunt Fellowships for German Politics, Society, and Culture are awarded to promising young American academics whose work explores key themes within contemporary German society and the political, cultural, and social history of Germany. The fellowships were established in 2003 in honor of ACG Vice Chairman Dr. Richard M. Hunt, a Harvard University historian who has been devoted to mentoring younger scholars and who served as ACG President for 15 years.

In 2017, Hunt Fellowships were awarded to two individuals. Thomas Meaney, a journalist who is finishing his Ph.D. in International and Global History at Columbia University, is researching the refugee crisis that began in Germany in 2015, including its origins and implications. Alexandria Ruble, Visiting Lecturer of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is examining family law and gender equity in East and West Germany between 1945 and 1976.

KELLEN FELLOWSHIPS
The Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen Fellowships are awarded to Berlin-based journalists to conduct research on key issues within German-American relations. The fellowships are in honor of Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen, a Berlin native who was an ACG Board member and Co-Chairman of the New York investment firm Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder Holdings. The Kellen Fellowships began in 1997 thanks to the generous support of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

In 2017, Kellen Fellowships were awarded to three individuals, all of whose projects focus on the interplay of media and politics: Oliver Bilger, a journalist at Der Tagesspiegel, is exploring how media can protect against fake news and misinformation; Florian Sturm, Editor at Editos Editorial Services and a freelance journalist, is examining whether the internet is loosening society’s grip on the truth; and Peter Weissenburger, Editor at Die Tageszeitung, is investigating how media are contributing to a polarized environment in politics.

“...My McCloy Fellowship offered me something many journalists can only dream of having in their lifetime – a chance to step out of the newsroom and away from deadlines, and do the most essential part of our work: exploring, digging, and, most importantly, listening. The fellowship let me do this work in a way that was respectful, patient, and profoundly educational, both as a reporter and a human being. I met people in my time in Berlin who I am committed to staying in touch with, and whose stories I am honored to be able to share. I will cherish my time in Berlin for the rest of my life.”

— NATASHA HAVERTY
(2016 McCloy Fellow on Global Trends)
Leadership Missions

Building on its decades-long track record of international exchanges, the American Council on Germany launched leadership missions in 2016 to offer more practitioners in agriculture and urban affairs the opportunity to travel overseas as a group and meet with their transatlantic counterparts to discuss current challenges—and policy solutions—in their fields. In 2017, the ACG offered a leadership mission in each of the two fields, with six participants in each.

MCCLOY LEADERSHIP MISSION ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND RESOURCE SCARCITY

In November, the American Council on Germany hosted six German agricultural experts under the auspices of the McCloy Leadership Mission on Agriculture, Food Security, and Resource Scarcity. The program gives practitioners and policymakers the opportunity to study agricultural policy, farming, and food-supply conditions on the other side of the Atlantic. During the 12-day program, the participants exchanged best practices with their American counterparts.

During the site visits and meetings, the group had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the American agricultural industry while building lasting bonds. The group was hosted by ACG alumni and local Farm Bureau members in Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, and the Greater Washington, DC, area.

The participants were Gerolf Bücheler, Head of the Division for Environmental Policy and Sustainability at the Deutscher Bauernverband; Jörn Ehlers, Vice President of the Landvolk Niedersachsen Landesbauernverband; Hilmer Garbade, President of the Bremischer Landwirtschaftsverband; Ida Hartmann, Head of Public Relations at the Landesbauernverband in Baden-Württemberg; Tilo Radloff, a farmer and Chairman of the Kreisbauernverband in Altentreptow; and Jörn Ehlers, Vice President of the Landvolk Niedersachsen Landesbauernverband.

The ACG extends its thanks to the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Deutscher Bauernverband (German Farmers’ Association) for their cooperation on this leadership mission.

MCCLOY LEADERSHIP MISSION ON URBAN AFFAIRS AND SUSTAINABILITY

In late September, six American policymakers and experts on urban affairs took part in the McCloy Leadership Mission on Urban Affairs and Sustainability. During the 12-day program, the group met with government officials, think tanks, and nongovernmental organizations in five German cities. The participants were given an in-depth look at how German cities are addressing today’s challenges. Traveling to Berlin, Cologne, Karlsruhe, Leipzig, and Mannheim, the group was hosted by ACG alumni and local government officials.

The participants were Luke Feeney, Mayor of the City of Chillicothe, Ohio; Ryan Henderson, Assistant to the City Manager in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Emma Lieberth, Manager of State League Services and Strategic Partnerships at the National League of Cities; Deborah Morris, Executive Director of Resiliency Planning, Policy, and Acquisitions at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Susana O’Daniel, Director of Public Affairs for the Arkansas Education Association; and Catherine Rollins, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy in the City of Everett, Massachusetts.

Special thanks go to the Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities) and the National League of Cities for assisting with this program.

In 1976, the McCloy Fellowships were established, allowing young professionals in the fields of art, journalism, labor unions, law, and state and local government, and later agriculture and environmental policy, to travel between Germany and the United States to gain a better understanding of how issues are approached on the other side of the Atlantic and to forge lasting connections with their transatlantic counterparts. The fellowships have evolved over time to address the pressing issues of the day, and leadership missions were launched to engage more practitioners in agriculture and urban affairs in intensive study tours. Alumni of the fellowships and leadership missions—now numbering more than 1,100—are committed to applying lessons learned and continuing their collaboration with new contacts after they return from overseas.
Marking 65 Years of Strengthening Transatlantic Dialogue

The American Council on Germany is founded to promote transatlantic understanding after World War II. The ACG was organized by Christopher Emmet, an activist at institutions involved in world affairs, with the mission of "dissemination of information on America to the people of Germany, the dissemination of information on Germany to the people of the U.S., sponsorship of visits of prominent Germans to the U.S., and circulation of articles by members of the Council itself."

The ACG launches an annual ‘Day of German Unity’ commemoration. The ACG’s observance of “The Day of German Unity” commemorated the uprising against the communist regime in East Berlin on June 17, 1953. This series of large luncheons and receptions with distinguished speakers continued for two decades, with guests of honor over the years including German politician Franz Josef Strauss; Senators Jacob Javits, Thomas Dodd, and John Tower; Ambassador George McGhee, Mayor John Lindsay; and Karl Schiller, German Federal Economics Minister.

Chancellor Adenauer addresses the ACG. In his speech before the ACG, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer said that “Only rarely in history have a victorious people extended a helping hand to the vanquished in the way that the American people have done. This generous spirit has been manifested in every conceivable way: person to person, organization to organization, in acts of Congress, and in governmental measures.”

The ACG disseminates insights. The ACG’s initial efforts focused on publications, correspondence, and radio addresses. In a weekly radio program, founder Christopher Emmet interviewed leading personalities on current international issues.

1952 1953 1959

The first German-American Biennial Conference looks at East-West tensions. The first German-American Biennial Conference brought together key American and German government officials, military officers, business executives, academics, and journalists in Bad Godesberg, Germany, to discuss tensions between the East and West. The conference was held together with Atlantik-Brücke.

1960

The American-German Young Leaders Conference is launched. ACG Vice Chairman John Diebold conceptualized the idea of an American-German Young Leaders Conference to identify the future government, business, military, and media leaders of Germany and the U.S., bring them together for a week of discussions and networking, and send them home with a lifelong commitment to the relationship and a continuing involvement in transatlantic affairs. The conferences were originally held biennially in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and alternated between the United States and Germany.

1973

Chancellor Kohl addresses the ACG. Helmut Kohl addressed the ACG during his first visit to the United States after being elected Chancellor of Germany. He highlighted the importance of the German-American relationship while also commenting on the prospect of a summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Yuri Andropov of the Soviet Union.

Core groups address tensions. The ACG and Atlantik-Brücke convened small core groups of respected analysts, policymakers, and business leaders from Germany and the United States in Washington, DC, to exchange ideas, helping to ease anxieties and restore a positive tone to the bilateral discourse.

1976

The ACG establishes Congressional Fellowships. The Congressional Fellowships were designed to expose young Germans to the U.S. legislative process.

1982

V-E Day is remembered at Hyde Park. A program marking the 40th anniversary of V-E Day took place at the Roosevelt estate in Hyde Park, where Ambassador Günther van Well, German Ambassador to the United States, laid a wreath at FDR’s grave. The remarks of Karl Carstens, former German President, and historian Gordon Craig underscored the positive change in German-American relations since 1945 and helped alleviate tensions of the day.

1985

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Arthur F. Burns Lecture Series is created.

The ACG announced a lecture series in honor of the late U.S. Ambassador to Germany and former Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur F. Burns, who had passed away in June of that year. Speakers through the years have included Alan Greenspan, also former Federal Reserve Chairman; Deutsche Bundesbank Presidents Karl Otto Pöhl, Axel Weber, and Ernst Welteke; and Rolf-E. Breuer, Spokesperson of the Board of Managing Directors at Deutsche Bank AG.

1987

The ACG holds a discussion with President Rau and addresses 9/11.

President Johannes Rau honored those killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11. The ACG also held other programming analyzing the attacks, including an event with the Council on Foreign Relations featuring Wolfgang Ischinger (1978 Young Leader), German Ambassador to the United States; Ron Asmus, Senior Fellow for Europe Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations; and Martin Walker, Chief International Correspondent at United Press International, with Michael Elliot, Editor at Large at Time magazine, presiding.

1988

The ACG sends a study group to Berlin.

A delegation of 40 people, including members and friends of the ACG, traveled to Berlin to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, attending an event featuring former President George H.W. Bush, former President Mikhail Gorbachev, and former Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

1990

The ACG celebrates its 50th anniversary by publishing its history and launching the McCloy Lecture Series.

The ACG released A Proud Past and a Bright Future: The First 50 Years of the American Council on Germany, chronicling its first five decades of work to promote transatlantic dialogue. The ACG also launched the McCloy Lecture Series, featuring high-level speakers including Dr. Klaus Kleinfeld, President and CEO of Alcoa Inc.; Roland Koch, Minister-President of Hesse; Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, member of the Bundestag and Deputy Chair of the CDU/CSU Bundestag Group; Otto Schily, German Minister of the Interior (SPD); and Ernst Welteke, Governor of the Deutsche Bundesbank.

1999

The ACG initiates the corporate membership program and Business Advisory Committee.

The corporate membership program was initiated to provide business leaders in the German-American community with access to top economic decision-makers and other business leaders from both countries; invitations to discussions and conferences on current transatlantic issues; and participation in a forum where American and German business leaders can network and discuss issues of mutual concern.

2001

The ACG helps launch the annual Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership Conference.

The Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership Conference (TEP) was designed to bring together entrepreneurs and innovators from both sides of the Atlantic. This series built on a 2011 Digital Media Conference held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke.

The annual German-American Conference is established.

The conferences, held in partnership with Atlantik-Brücke, convene American and German opinion leaders and decision-makers from government, business, media, and academia for lively discussions concerning the most pressing issues on the transatlantic agenda. The location alternates between Berlin and Washington, DC.

2002

The ACG inaugurates the Political Salon.

The Political Salon was designed to bring together a diverse group of younger and mid-career professionals for informal, open discussions on a range of current political, economic, and social topics in an increasingly interconnected global environment—with an emphasis on issues of concern for the transatlantic agenda. Speakers share brief remarks and engage in a dynamic discussion with participants.

The ACG launches its weekly news digest.

The weekly news digest was designed to provide a compilation of timely analysis and opinion pieces on transatlantic issues.
The ACG establishes the first Warburg Chapters across the United States.

Lionel Pincus made a five-year grant in honor of his business partner, ACG founder Eric M. Warburg, to the Council to finance the establishment of Eric M. Warburg Chapters in select U.S. cities. These Chapters have continued to flourish, and the ACG now has 21 Chapters across the country.

The ACG celebrates its 40th anniversary.

The celebrations included a reception and dinner with Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor of Germany, with Senator J. William Fulbright presiding; a reception and New York Philharmonic concert with Conductor Kurt Masur; and a reception and luncheon with Dick Cheney, then U.S. Secretary of Defense.

The ACG holds its first John J. McCloy Awards Dinner and expands its membership and activities.

The ACG’s McCloy Awards honor exemplary leaders of German and American companies for their important roles in fostering transatlantic cooperation. Honorees have included the leaders of BASF, Bayer, Blackstone, BMW, Cit, Coca-Cola, Commerzbank, Daimler, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Post DHL, The Dow Chemical Company, DZ BANK, Exxon, General Electric, Honeywell, JPMorgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Pfizer, Siemens, and ThyssenKrupp. The ACG also enlarged its membership and coordinated more regional and multilateral activities.

The Kellen Fellowships.

The Kellen Fellowships for Berlin-based journalists pay tribute to Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen, a Berlin native who was an ACG Board member and Co-Chairman of the New York investment firm Arnhold and S. Bleichröder Holdings.

The ACG convenes working groups.

A series of working groups made up of 10 to 15 German and American policymakers, academics, journalists, military officers, and analysts came together to discuss issues on which Americans and Germans might take the lead in setting a Western agenda for joint action, including the future of NATO, the Middle East, China, and Russia.

The ACG establishes the Hunt and Goldman Fellowships.

The Hunt and Goldman Fellowships were established to allow American scholars to study German and European economic and historical issues. The fellowships pay tribute to ACG Vice Chairman Dr. Richard M. Hunt, who devoted much of his career as a Harvard University historian to mentoring younger scholars and who served as President of the ACG for 15 years, and also political scientist and former ACG Board member Dr. Guido Goldman, Director of German Studies at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University and former Co-Chairman of the Board of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The ACG holds a discussion with newly elected Chancellor Merkel.

Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed “Challenges to the Transatlantic European Partnership,” focusing on the need for free trade and open markets and stressing that the U.S. and Germany should work together to promote both.

The ACG launches a series of study tours.

The study tours allow American professionals to gain a firsthand look at German and wider European political, economic, and social issues by meeting with key officials and analysts on the ground. Later study tours focused on climate and energy policy as well as immigration and migration policy.

The ACG establishes the Garrick Utley Lecture Series on Global Media Issues.

The lecture series was established in honor of ACG Chairman Garrick Utley, an award-winning journalist, in order to bring a distinguished journalist to speak before the ACG each year. The first Garrick Utley Lecturer was Dr. Mathias Döpfner, Chairman and CEO of Axel Springer AG. Other speakers have included Dr. Josef Joffe, Editor of DIE ZEIT; Claus Kleber, Lead Anchor of “heute journal” on ZDF German Television; and Michael Naumann, former German Federal Minister of Culture and Media. The program was made possible through the generous support of ACG Vice Chairman and former ACG President Dr. Richard M. Hunt.

The ACG inaugurates leadership missions on agriculture and urban affairs.

On the 40th anniversary of the ACG’s fellowship programs, the McCloy Fellowships in Agriculture and Urban Affairs were re-envisioned as leadership missions to engage more practitioners. These study tours focus on urban affairs and sustainability as well as climate and energy policy.

The ACG launches podcasts and Hot Topics Calls.

The ACG’s digital outreach expanded to include podcasts and Hot Topics Calls analyzing a variety of timely topics.

At its 25th annual McCloy Awards Dinner, the ACG celebrates its 65th anniversary and the DZ BANK Fellowships are announced.

AGC President Dr. Steven E. Sokol chronicled the Council’s work to promote transatlantic dialogue since its founding in 1952 and gave a preview of what is yet to come. Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt received the 2017 Leadership Award for his dedication as ACG Chairman for seven years. McCloy Award honoree Wolfgang Kirsch, Chief Executive Officer of DZ BANK AG, announced the future launch of the DZ BANK Fellowships on Transatlantic Business and Finance to give finance professionals, journalists, academics, and experts the opportunity to travel overseas to conduct research on key issues in the transatlantic economy. (Photo by Clark Jones)
Partners in Promoting Transatlantic Understanding

Corporate and Foundation Support

**$50,000 AND UP**
- Blackstone Foundation
- DZ BANK AG
- European Recovery Program Transatlantic Program
- The Walbridge Fund, as per Arthur Yorke Allen

**$25,000 TO $49,999**
- Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
- AT&T
- BASF Corporation
- Bridgewater Associates, LP
- Citi
- Deutsche Bank
- German Marshall Fund of the United States
- Mannheim LLC
- Margot & Tom Pritzker Family Foundation
- NWI Management LP

**$10,000 TO $24,999**
- Allianz of America
- Arnhold Foundation
- Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
- bayme vbm vbw – Bavarian Industry Association
- BMW of North America, LLC
- Boeing
- Daimler
- Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Deutsche Post DHL
- North America
- Deutsche Telekom
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Facebook
- Goldman Sachs & Co.
- Infineon Technologies AG
- Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP
- Noerr LLP
- NORD/LB
- Patomak Global Partners, LLC
- Pfizer Inc.
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation
- Sidley Austin LLP
- Siemens
- SL Green Realty Corp.
- Volkswagen Group of America
- WilmerHale
- XL Catlin

**$5,000 TO $9,999**
- The Andrew D. Zacks Foundation

---

**Corporate Membership Program**

The American Council on Germany is committed to working closely with American and German business leaders and respective corporate communities to advance the understanding of key economic and political issues on the transatlantic agenda. Corporate membership is designed to meet the needs of business executives as well as companies with multiple representatives who would like access to ACG activities and resources.

The corporate membership program provides business leaders with opportunities to network with other professionals and to speak with German and other European officials to gain a more thorough understanding of the nuances of current events. Corporate members receive invitations to Council events and Hot Topics conference calls with experts, ACG publications, informational offerings such as the weekly news digest, and more. Top corporate members also receive executive summaries of discussions in New York City, along with special updates from the ACG President.

In 2017, the ACG offered corporate members a Breakfast Briefing with General Michael Hayden, Principal at the Chertoff Group and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and a Goldman Sachs and Handelsblatt live talk with Lloyd Blankfein, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Corporate members were also invited to the annual German-American Conference with Atlantik-Brücke in Berlin and a special reception with Ambassador Peter Wittig, German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence in Washington, DC.

The Council is very grateful for the involvement, support, and generosity of all of the corporate members and other supporters listed here.
Individual Support

$10,000 AND ABOVE
Anonymous
Paul Stewart Atkins
Alan H. Fleischmann
William R. Harman
Andre Kelleners
Robert M. Kimmitt
Tammy S. and Philip Murphy
Dale L. Ponikvar
Christopher M. Schroeder
Stanford S. Warshawsky

$5,000 AND ABOVE
Riprand Count Arco
Marc Bitzer
Joseph F. Campbell, Jr.
Anne E. Cohen
Richard M. Hunt
Joseph McLaughlin
Willem T. Mesdag

$1,000 TO $4,999
Arthur Yorke Allen
C. Robert Barker III
John J. Calaman
C. Robert Barker III

TO $499
Courtney Adante
Michael A. Almond
John Anderson
Sebastian Arango
Harold T. Atkins
Reinhard Augustin
Wolfgang Baare-Schmidt
Holger Baeuerle
Julia Bannmueller
Gregg E. Bauer
Uta von Behrens
Maximilian von Below
Barbara Berthold
Rudy H. Beutell
Sebastian G. Biedenkopf
Johannes M. Biermann
J.D. Bindenagel
Robert A. Black
Bruce E. Boevers
Henne Böttcher
Joshua B. Bolten
Brigitte G. Bomm
Matthew Boyce
Vincenz von Braun
Charles N. Brower
Keirn C. Brown, Jr.
Oliver G. Buck
Robin Cammarota
Alexander H. Cordes
José E.V. Cunningham
Scott D. Denham
Robert J. Donze
Marisa Doppler
Melissa E.R. Dungan
Devin Dwyer
Alain E. van Egmond
Juliane H. van Egmond
Stephanie Whittier
Robert B. Zoellick

Key
Chairman’s Circle
President’s Circle

WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE

A roster of individual members may be found on the ACG’s website at www.acgusa.org.

Northwest 37%
Mid-Atlantic 15%
South 14%
Midwest 7%
Southwest 2%
West Coast 5%
Europe 18%
Elsewhere <1%

2017 ANNUAL REPORT  19
Co-Sponsors and Collaborating Organizations

Alliance Française Mpls/St. Paul
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Friends of Bucerius
American Institute for Contemporary German Studies
American Jewish Committee
Arlington Economic Development
Atlantik-Brücke
Baker McKenzie LLP
Berlin Partner
Boston University
Brandeis University’s Center for German and European Studies
Butler University
Center for New American Security
Central Washington University
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
Citizens’ Climate Lobby, East Valley Chapter
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
Committee on Foreign Relations, Minnesota
Consul General of Germany Hans-Ulrich Suedbeck
Consulate General of Germany in Boston
Consulate General of Germany in Chicago
Consulate General of Germany in New York
Consulate General of Germany in San Francisco
Cultural Vistas
CUNY European Union Studies Center
CUNY Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies
Dallas Goethe Center
Denver Council on Foreign Relations
Deutscher Bauernverband (German Farmers’ Association)
Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities)
Deutsches Haus at NYU
Duane Morris LLP
Florida Atlantic University Department of Political Science
Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services
Free State of Thuringia
German American Business Association of Northern California
German American Business Association of Southern California
German American Chamber of Commerce
German American Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia
German American Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Chapter
German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S., Inc.
German Embassy in Washington, DC
German Federal Foreign Office
Germanic American Institute
Global Center on Cooperative Security
Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta
Goethe-Institut
Goethe-Institut Boston
Goethe-Institut Chicago
Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
HanaHaus
Harvard University’s Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies
Honorary Consul of Germany, Indianapolis
Illinois Chamber of Commerce International Business Council
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis’ Max Kade German-American Center
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (Institute for Foreign Relations)
Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
LA84 Foundation
Lutheran Child and Family Services
Madison International Trade Association
Minnesota Consular Corps
National League of Cities
N.C. Zeitgeist Foundation
New York International
Northeastern University
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Resurrection Lutheran Church
San Diego World Affairs Council
South Carolina United FC
Suffolk University
Transatlantic Academy
University of California, Berkeley’s Institute of European Studies
University of Minnesota’s Center for German and European Studies
University of Texas at Dallas School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Wake County Economic Development
Washington University in St. Louis’ International and Area Studies Program
Western Washington University Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
World Affairs Council of Charlotte
World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh
World Affairs Council of Seattle
WorldBoston

The American Council on Germany’s weekly news digest brings members and friends a compilation of timely analysis and opinion pieces on transatlantic issues. The ACG’s monthly newsletter also keeps members informed about upcoming events and others goings-on at the Council. To view these and other selected ACG publications, please see the ACG’s website at www.acgusa.org.
Who We Are
2017 Officers, Directors, and Staff

OFFICERS
Chairman
Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt

Vice Chairman
Dr. Richard M. Hunt

Vice Chairman and Treasurer
William R. Harman

Honorary Vice Chairman
Paul A. Volcker

President
Dr. Steven E. Sokol

Counsel
Dale L. Ponikvar

Secretary and Executive Vice President
Karen Furey

DIRECTORS
Paul Stewart Atkins
Chief Executive Patomak Global Partners, LLC

Alex M. Azar II
Chairman and Founder Seraphim Strategies, LLC

Dr. Marc Bitzer
Chief Executive Officer Whirlpool Corporation

Reginald J. Brown
Partner Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Dr. Martin Bussmann
Managing Director Mannheim LLC

James W. Cicconi
Former Senior Executive Vice President AT&T

Anne E. Cohen
Of Counsel Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

David W. Detjen
Senior Counsel Alston & Bird LLP

Ambassador Richard W. Fisher
President and CEO (ret.) Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Alan H. Fleischmann
President and CEO Laurel Strategies Inc.

David Geanacopoulos
Senior Executive Vice President, Public Affairs and Public Policy Volkswagen of America, Inc.

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg
Chairman, Spitzberg Partners LLC Distinguished Statesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

William R. Harman
Managing Director (ret.) Morgan Stanley

Dr. Richard M. Hunt
University Marshal a.D. Harvard University

Laura Cox Kaplan
Adjunct Professor American University

Dr. Andre Kelleners
Managing Director – Investment Banking Division Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Francis J. Kelly
Managing Director & Global Coordinator, Public Affairs Deutsche Bank AG

Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt
Chairman, American Council on Germany Senior International Counsel, WilmerHale LLP

Hon. Henry A. Kissinger
Chairman Kissinger Associates, Inc.

Brian K. Klein
Co-Founder and Managing Member Steelhead Partners, Inc.

Dr. Klaus Kleinfeld
Chairman and CEO NEOM

Marne Levine
Chief Operating Officer Instagram

Dr. Alan S. MacDonald
Chief Client Officer Citigroup Inc.

Edward S. McFadden
Secretary of Communications Archdiocese of Washington

Cassidy Morgan
Global Director, Brand Strategy and Insights Google

Tammy S. Murphy
Co-Owner Murphy Endeavors LLC

Courtney Diesel O’Donnell
Head of External Affairs Airbnb

Dale L. Ponikvar
Senior Corporate Tax Partner (ret.) Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP

Christopher M. Schroeder
Internet Entrepreneur and Investor

Dr. Nina Smidt
President, American Friends of Bucerius Director, International Strategic Planning and Business Development, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

Wayne T. Smith
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer BASF Corporation

Dr. Steven E. Sokol
President American Council on Germany

Stanford S. Warshawsky
Chairman Bismarck Capital, LLC

STAFF
Rachael Agnello
Program Assistant (As of July 2017)

Robin Cammarota
Program Director and Digital Strategist

Melissa Rocha Dungan
Administrative/Program Assistant (Through October 2017)

Dr. Helena Kane Finn
Vice President and Director of Programs

Karen Furey
Executive Vice President

Catherine Hatten
Program Manager (Through July 2017)

Dr. Steven E. Sokol
President

Michele Ruehs Steinbuch
Vice President

Klara Steupert
Development and Program Assistant