



AMERICAN
COUNCIL ON
GERMANY

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Visit the ACG's website at www.acgusa.org for:

- A full calendar of events;
- Our weekly news digest, monthly newsletter, podcasts, and publications;
- A membership roster;
- Lists of our program participants, including Young Leaders and fellows;
- Ways to support our work; and
- Much more.

A Message from the President



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol (lower right) with 2018 Young Leaders

2018 was a volatile year – and I am not just talking about the markets. For U.S. and European domestic politics, 2018 was marked by unexpected developments and a high degree of uncertainty. Some might even say it was a chaotic year. Together the ambiguity in domestic politics and a complex global environment have had a profound impact on the transatlantic partnership. The volatility and uncertainty that characterized 2018 are likely to continue well into 2019 – and even beyond.

There is no question: It was an intense year for German, European, and U.S. politics, for the overarching transatlantic relationship – and of course for the American Council on Germany. Against this backdrop, ACG programs and activities have delivered a deeper, more nuanced understanding of a host of issues influencing the transatlantic partnership.

I couldn't be more proud of the ACG's small but nimble team and its incredible accomplishments in 2018. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- The ACG organized well over 100 policy discussions in New York City and at its 21 Eric M. Warburg Chapters across the country. This programming provided the business community, policymakers, journalists, academics, and the community at large with access to expert speakers who shared their insights concerning developments in Germany, Europe, and around the world – and how they impact the transatlantic partnership.
- The ACG hosted more in-depth fora as well; the 2018 German-American Conference, which brought together key influencers in transatlantic relations in Washington, DC, looked at "The Alliance in Question? The Transatlantic Relationship in an Era of Disruption." The conference addressed the global liberal order, and considered whether it is under threat; Western relations with China; transatlantic trade; and "fake news" and its impact on democratic institutions. In connection with the conference, the ACG and its sister organization in Berlin, Atlantik-Brücke, sponsored a public opinion survey to gauge attitudes and priorities on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The annual American-German Young Leaders Conference brought together 50 rising stars from government, business, journalism, academia, the military, and the nonprofit sector for a week of intense dialogue concerning domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting both countries. The conferences are an important contribution to the development of the next generation of transatlanticists.
- The ACG's five fellowship programs allowed American and German journalists, scholars, and other mid-career professionals from a variety of fields to travel across the Atlantic to conduct research and to gain a better

understanding of how common challenges are addressed on the other side of the Atlantic. We also launched the DZ BANK Fellowship on Transatlantic Business and Finance in 2018.

- The Council's in-depth study tours and leadership missions enabled practitioners and experts to meet with their professional counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic, exchange best practices, and discuss issues on the transatlantic agenda, such as immigration and integration, the future of cities, energy and the environment, trade policy, and foreign and security policy. The ACG expanded its offerings by launching the Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour in 2018.
- We supplemented these activities with other outreach initiatives that included timely Hot Topics Calls, podcasts, a weekly new digest, and special reports.
- We capped the year with our McCloy Awards Dinner honoring Joe Kaeser, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, and Penny Pritzker, 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The evening included an engaging conversation about innovation, workforce development, and the future of transatlantic relations.

Every year, I am astonished by what we achieve – the sheer number of events and their geographic reach; the timeliness and quality of the discussions and the clear contribution to deepening the mutual understanding between Europe and the United States; and also the deep insights – and commitment – of our speakers, program participants, fellows, and alumni. 2018 was a year full of gratifying milestones and new initiatives.

We are lucky to have incredible partners in fulfilling the mission of the American Council on Germany. I speak on behalf of everyone at the ACG when I say that we look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the transatlantic partnership in 2019.

Dr. Steven E. Sokol
ACG President

March 2019

The ACG and Its Mission

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 outreach and events 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 on 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 government, business, academia, nongovernmental organizations, 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, leadership missions, and study tours** bring together the next generation of German and American academics, journalists, and other professionals from diverse fields to deepen their understanding about 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 and 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.

Policy Programs

2018 Event Highlights



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; Atlantik-Brücke Chairman Friedrich Merz; Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations; ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson; Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman (1986 Young Leader), Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the UN; ACG Chairman Emeritus Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt; and Ambassador Peter Wittig, Ambassador of Germany to the United States
(All captions are left to right unless otherwise indicated.)

January

1.17. | Annual Meeting of the Members, featuring a keynote address by **Dr. Christoph Heusgen**, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

1.18. | Breakfast Briefing with **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, Ambassador of Germany to the United States, on **“German-American Relations in Turbulent Times,”** hosted by AllianceBernstein, LP

1.29. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Lars-Hendrik Röllert**, Chief Economic Advisor to the Federal Chancellor and Director-General for Economic, Financial, and Energy Policy at the German Chancellery, on **“Hot Topics in Transatlantic Economic Affairs,”** sponsored by DZ BANK AG

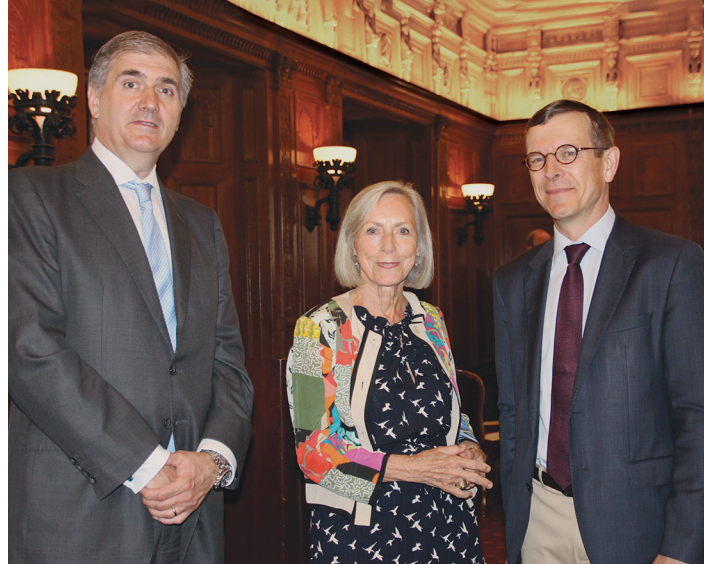
February

2.9. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers**, Chairman of the European Commission’s High-Level Strategy Group for Industrial Technologies and former Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia, on **“Finding a Common Future: Remarks on the European-American Partnership,”** hosted by Sidley Austin LLP

2.17. | Breakfast Briefing on **“Setting Foreign Policy Priorities in an Era of Political Polarization”** at the Munich Security Conference featuring **Mark Rutte**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, German Bundestag members **Niels Annen** (SPD) and **Andreas Nick** (CDU), **Congressman Joaquin Castro** (D-Texas) (2009 Young Leader) and **Congressman Michael Turner** (R-Ohio), as well as **Jane Harman**, President of the Woodrow Wilson Center, and *Washington Post* columnist **David Ignatius**, held in cooperation with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; Ambassador Emily M. Haber, German Ambassador to the United States; and Carl Amendola, General Manager of DZ BANK AG New York



Nicholas von Moltke, art historian Gertje Utley, and Dr. Christoph von Marschall (1999 Kellen Fellow), 2017/18 Helmut Schmidt Fellow and Chief Diplomatic Correspondent at *Der Tagesspiegel*

March

3.7. | Discussion and reception with **Dr. Reinhard Ploss**, CEO and member of the Management Board of Infineon Technologies AG, on **“Innovation and Digitalization: Technology Is the Key to Transforming the Future”**

3.12. | Discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Michael Hüther**, Director of the German Economic Institute, on **“International Value Chains in an Age of Protectionism: Productivity, Employment, and Spillover Effects,”** with remarks also by **Bertram Brossardt**, CEO of bayme vbm and Executive Vice President and CEO of vbw, held in cooperation with vbw – The Bavarian Industry Association and bayme vbm – The Bavarian Employers’ Associations for the Metalworking and Electrical Industries

3.21. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman** (1986 Young Leader), Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations, on **“Is the International System Broken? Multilateralism in the 21st Century,”** sponsored by DZ BANK AG

April

4.12. | Discussion and luncheon as part of the 2018 Transatlantic Global Agenda Series with **Dr. Kristin Shi-Kupfer**, Director of the Research Area on Public Policy and Society at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), on **“Forging the ‘China Solution’ as a Challenge for the West: How the Chinese Communist Party Tries to Win Influence in Europe,”** hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

4.19. | Panel discussion and reception on **“Regional Visioning: Transforming City Regions and Public Participation”** featuring the Lord Mayor of Dortmund, **Ullrich Sierau**, held in cooperation with the University Alliance Ruhr

May

5.7. | Discussion and dinner with **Walter Russell Mead**, Distinguished Fellow at Hudson Institute, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities at Bard College, and Global View Columnist at the *Wall Street Journal*, hosted by **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence, held in connection with the German-American Conference

5.21. | Discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Yascha Mounk**, Lecturer at Harvard University and author of *The People vs. Democracy: Why Our Freedom Is in Danger and How to Save It*, on **“Is Democracy Dying?”** hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

5.24. | Discussion and luncheon with **Nikolas Löbel**, member of the Bundestag (CDU/CSU), on **“The Future of European Security Cooperation and the Dangers Facing the Liberal Order,”** held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

June

6.7. | Breakfast Briefing with **General Michael V. Hayden**, Principal at The Chertoff Group, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and author of *The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies*, on **“National Security and the Transatlantic Partnership in a Post-Truth World,”** hosted by Sidley Austin LLP

6.19. | Discussion and luncheon, as part of the Garrick Utley Memorial Lecture Series on Global Media Issues, with **Dr. Christoph von Marschall** (1999 Kellen Fellow), 2017/18 Helmut Schmidt Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the ZEIT Foundation, and Chief Diplomatic Correspondent at *Der Tagesspiegel*, on **“Transatlantic Dissonance: Reporting from Both Sides of the Atlantic,”** sponsored by ACG Vice Chairman Dr. Richard M. Hunt



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; David Gill (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York; Juliane Camfield, Director of Deutsches Haus at NYU; Dr. Christian Martin, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University; Çiğdem İpek (2014 Young Leader), social scientist in Berlin; and Bundestag member Frank Müller-Rosentritt (FDP) Photo by Stefan Falke



ACG Chairman Emeritus Ambassador Robert M. Kimmitt and ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson

July / August

7.13. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ambassador Emily M. Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States, on **“Transatlantic Relations After the G7 Summit,”** supported by DZ BANK AG

8.27. | Discussion and reception with **Klaus Welle**, Secretary General of the European Parliament (CDU), on **“The Future of Europe and Transatlantic Relations in a New Global Order: A View from the European Parliament,”** held in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

September

9.10. | Political Salon with **Annalena Baerbock**, Co-Chair of Alliance 90/The Greens and member of the Bundestag, on **“Authoritarianism, Populism, and Challenges to Democracy: A German Perspective,”** with support from the German Consulate General in New York and the Heinrich Böll Foundation

9.17. | Discussion and luncheon with **Peter Beyer**, Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the German Federal Foreign Office and member of the Bundestag (CDU/CSU), on **“Transatlantic Cooperation: Indispensable for American Prosperity, Freedom in Europe, and Global Security,”** hosted by Penguin Random House

9.21. | Discussion and luncheon with **Reiner Hoffmann**, Chairman of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), on **“The Opportunities and Challenges of Digitalization in the Workplace,”** held in cooperation with Morgan Stanley Foundation and Endowment Services

9.27. | Discussion and luncheon with **Professor Dr. Christoph Meinel**, CEO of the Hasso-Plattner-Institut and Dean of the Digital Engineering Faculty at Potsdam University, on **“The Reality Behind Artificial Intelligence,”** hosted by NORD/LB

9.28. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. A. Wess Mitchell** (Young Leaders Study Group on the Future of Europe), Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, on **“The Future of the German-American Relationship”**

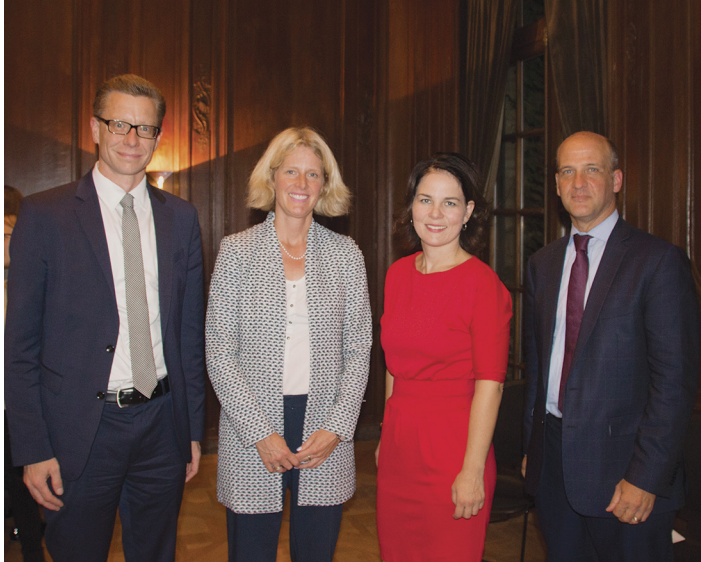
October

10.2. | Breakfast Briefing with **Adam Tooze**, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of History at Columbia University, Director of the European Institute, and author of *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*, on **“The 2008 Financial Crisis and Its Impact on the Transatlantic Relationship,”** hosted by AllianceBernstein, LP

10.2. | Panel discussion with **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York; **Çiğdem İpek** (2014 Young Leader), social scientist in Berlin; **Dr. Christian Martin**, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University; and Bundestag member **Frank Müller-Rosentritt** (FDP), on **“Is Chemnitz Germany’s Charlottesville Moment?”** held in cooperation with Deutsches Haus at NYU and NYU’s Center for European and Mediterranean Studies

10.5. | Breakfast Briefing with **Hermann Gröhe**, member of the Bundestag (CDU), former Federal Minister of Health, and Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, on **“Current Trends and Challenges in German Politics,”** hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

10.11. | Discussion and luncheon with **Bruce Stokes**, Director of Global Economic Attitudes at Pew Research Center, on **“American and European Views on Economics and Trade in the Trump Era,”** hosted by Sidley Austin LLP



Bastian Hermisson, Executive Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America; Dr. Katja Wiesbrock Donovan, Chief Officer for Management and Programming at the German Academy New York; Annalena Baerbock, Co-Chair of Alliance 90/The Greens and member of the Bundestag; and ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol



Peter Beyer, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU), and ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol discussing German politics during a Hot Topics Call

10.16. | Panel discussion and reception as part of the Transatlantic Entrepreneur Partnership Conference on **“When Cities Collaborate: Global Public-Private Partnerships in the Digital Age”** with **Ana Ariño**, Chief Strategy Officer of the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Stefan Franzke**, CEO of Berlin Partner; **Joachim Köhler**, Managing Director of Commerzbank Open Space; and **Vanessa Liu**, Vice President of SAP.IO Foundry NY, held in cooperation with Berlin Partner, the German Consulate General, and New York International

10.31. | Discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Christoph von Marschall** (1999 Kellen Fellow), Chief Digital Correspondent of *Der Tagesspiegel* and author of *Wir Verstehen die Welt Nicht Mehr: Deutschlands Entfremdung von Seinen Freunden*, on **“Self-Perception and External Expectations: Rethinking Germany’s Role on the World Stage,”** hosted by Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

November

11.5. | Breakfast Briefing with **Stefan Schlüter**, Program Director at the Diplomatic Academy in Berlin, on **“Contemporary German-Jewish Relations: Reflections from the Heartland,”** held in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee

11.14. | Discussion and luncheon with **Lars Klingbeil**, Secretary General of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and member of the Bundestag, on **“The Western Liberal Order Under Attack: The Future of German-American Relations,”** co-sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

December

12.3. | 26th Annual John J. McCloy Awards Dinner, honoring **Joe Kaeser**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, and **Penny Pritzker**, 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Founder and Chairman of PSP Partners

12.6. | Breakfast Briefing with **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, German Ambassador to the United Kingdom, on **“Brexit: Britain, Europe, and the Future of Transatlantic Relations,”** hosted by AllianceBernstein, LP

12.7. | Breakfast Briefing with **Jürgen Trittin**, member of the Bundestag (Alliance 90/The Greens) and former Federal Minister for the Environment, on **“The End of the West? Meeting the Challenges of Today’s Multipolar World,”** hosted by NORD/LB

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. In 2018, the ACG offered five Hot Topics Calls. **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York, gave a firsthand account of growing up in East Germany, the experiences he had immediately after the fall of the Wall, and how Germany has changed since November 1989. **Peter Beyer**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU), and **Malte Lehming**, Managing Editor of *Der Tagesspiegel* in Berlin, each discussed German politics and the implications of the newest Grand Coalition. **Cornelius Adebahr**, Nonresident Fellow at Carnegie Europe, spoke about EU-U.S. relations and the impact of the Trump administration’s decision to pull out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). **Stefan Kornelius**, Foreign Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, discussed the partnership between the CDU and the CSU, the Grand Coalition, and migration policy in Germany.

German-American Conference

The Alliance in Question? The Transatlantic Relationship in an Era of Disruption

The American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke hosted the sixth annual German-American Conference – “The Alliance in Question? The Transatlantic Relationship in an Era of Disruption” – at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, on May 6 and 7, 2018. The conference brought together about 200 people to address the challenges the German-American partnership is facing, with a focus on foreign and security policy, trade and economic policy, the sociopolitical challenges of digital disruption, and the dissemination of “fake news” and declining trust in democratic institutions on both sides of the Atlantic.

Among the highlights, **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Chairman of the ACG and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, discussed the current state of transatlantic relations with **Niels Annen** (SPD), State Minister for North America and the Middle East at the German Federal Foreign Office, and **Senator Chris Murphy** (D-Connecticut), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. **Friedrich Merz**, Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke, led a discussion with Secretary of Commerce **Wilbur Ross** on U.S. trade relations with China and the European Union.

Other speakers included **Peter Beyer**, member of the Bundestag (CDU/CSU) and Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation in the German Foreign Office; **Donatus Kaufmann**, member of the Executive Board at ThyssenKrupp AG; **Tanit Koch**, journalist and former Editor-in-Chief of *BILD*; **Edward Luce**, Chief U.S. Commentator for the *Financial Times* and author of *The Retreat of Western Liberalism*; **Denis McDonough**, Senior Principal at the Markle Foundation and former Chief of Staff to President Obama; **L. Daniel Mullaney**, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Europe; **Dr. Norbert Röttgen**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU) and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; **Ambassador Kristen Silverberg**, Managing Director of the Institute of International Finance and former U.S. Ambassador to the EU; and **M. Hanscom Smith**, Acting Director for China and Mongolia Affairs in the Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. State Department.



Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross

The conference concluded with a reception and dinner at the Residence of **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, German Ambassador to the United States, and a discussion with **Walter Russell Mead**, Distinguished Fellow at Hudson Institute and Global View Columnist at the *Wall Street Journal*.

Ambassador Emerson called upon conference participants to determine their own personal action items to help contribute to the continued vitality of the transatlantic relationship. They also came away with new insights on the state of transatlantic relations and the importance of continued dialogue, particularly at a time of tension.

In conjunction with the conference, the ACG and Atlantik-Brücke released a survey they had commissioned to examine public perceptions of the transatlantic relationship and current challenges for Europe and the United States. Key findings of the survey included:

- The majority of Germans and Americans believed in common Western values. However, about half of the respondents were convinced that the foundation of common values was eroding.
- One in five Germans did not think that Europe and the U.S. shared the same values.
- Germans and Americans agreed that the key common challenges were the fight against terrorism and climate change.
- Both Germans and Americans had a declining trust in democratic institutions. Only one in five was confident in these institutions, while one in three had little or no confidence.

Eric M. Warburg Chapters



Ambassador John B. Emerson, Chairman of the ACG and Vice Chairman of Capital Group International, and Ambassador Emily M. Haber, German Ambassador to the United States, conversing before almost 90 people at the Los Angeles Warburg Chapter about the state of transatlantic relations

Warburg Chapter Leaders

The ACG is grateful to the Warburg Chapter Directors for volunteering their time and energy to bring quality programming to audiences across the country:

Atlanta, Georgia
Martina Stellmaszek

Boca Raton, Florida
Aimee Kanner Arias

Boston, Massachusetts
Marc Redlich (until August)

Charlotte, North Carolina
Albert E. Guarnieri

Chicago, Illinois
John D. Gatto (until May)
Elke Rehbock (2017 Young Leader)

Cleveland, Ohio
Martin C. Schulz

Dallas, Texas
Hansjörg Heppe (2006 Young Leader) (until September)

Denver, Colorado
William M. Bass
Bernhard Juergen Bleise

Indianapolis, Indiana
Sven Schumacher

Los Angeles, California
John (Jack) Holcomb, Jr.
Johannes Masserer

Madison, Wisconsin
Elizabeth E. Covington

Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson

Nashville, Tennessee
Douglas Berry (1992 Young Leader)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Harry Carl Schaub

Phoenix, Arizona
Bernard Otremba-Blanc

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Bill Adams (until June)
Jonathan Hill (as of December)
Rachel Mauer

St. Louis, Missouri
Ulrike K. Schlafly (former ACG Board member)

San Diego, California
Eberhard H. Röhm
Jessica D. Röhm (1986 Young Leader)

San Francisco, California
Johannes M. Biermann (until April)
Thomas Gump

Seattle, Washington
Petra Heussner-Walker

Greater Washington, DC
Dale Medearis (1995 McCloy Fellow in Environmental Policy)



Conrad Haessler, Spokesperson at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, and Albert E. Guarnieri, Director of the Charlotte Warburg Chapter

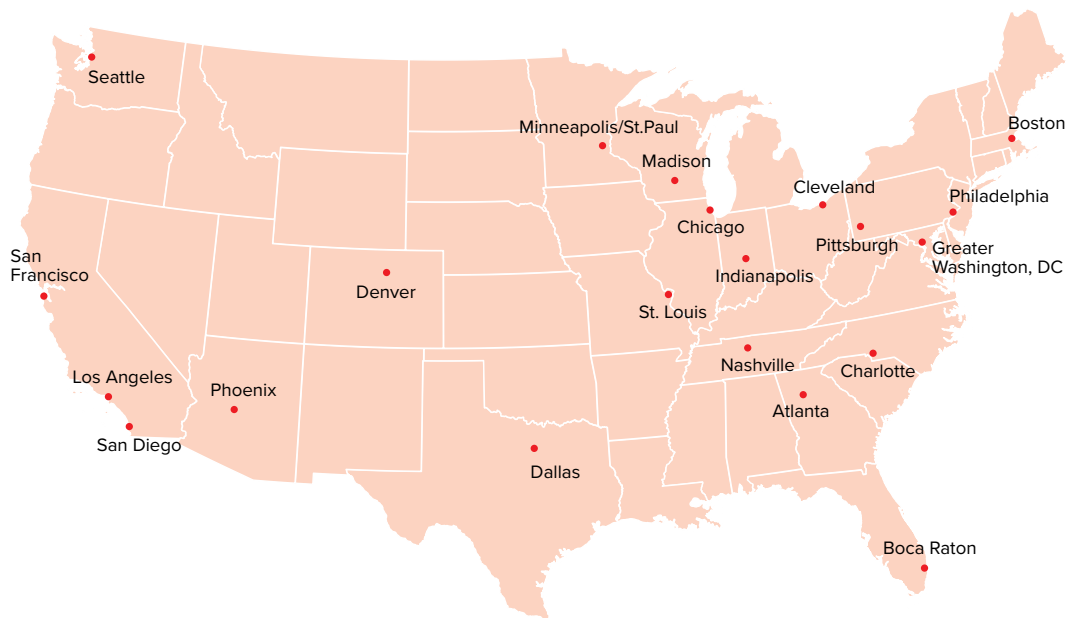


Quirin Blendl, Director of Cybersecurity and Digital Policy at VdTÜV (Association of TÜVs), speaking at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission about global approaches to cybersecurity challenges

In October 2018, the American Council on Germany collaborated with the American Jewish Committee to host former German diplomat **Stefan Schlüter** on a two-week speaking tour of 12 cities in the Southeast and Midwest, engaging Jewish communities to examine German-Jewish themes and discuss contemporary Germany. Mr. Schlüter met with more than 1,000 Americans at over 35 partner organizations – high schools, colleges and universities, Jewish Federations, synagogues, Warburg Chapters, and World Affairs Councils. Warburg Chapter meetings were held in Atlanta, Charlotte, Indianapolis, Madison, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Nashville. Funding for this project was provided by the German Federal Foreign Office and Allianz and was administered under the auspices of Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/2019 – the Year of German-American Friendship.



Mr. Schlüter at an event on “How Germany Has Come to Terms with Its Past,” held in partnership with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, and University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Institute for Human Rights

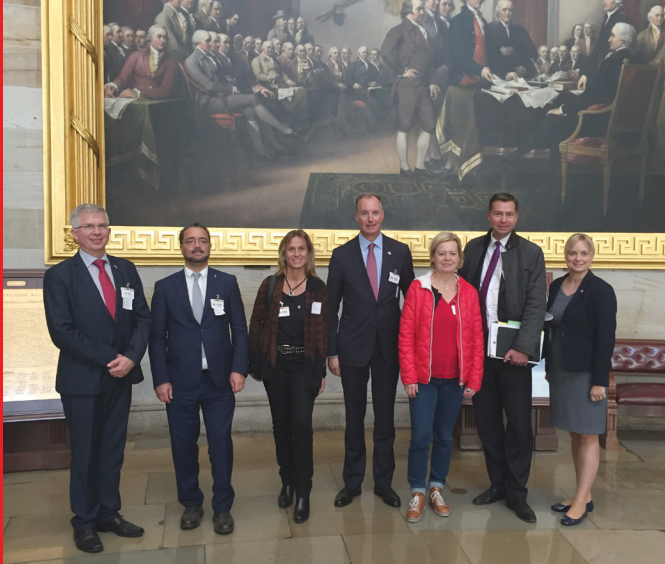


Named after ACG founding member and longtime Treasurer Eric M. Warburg, the Warburg Chapters were launched in 1992 to offer members of the American Council on Germany and the general public across the United States a dynamic forum to examine German-American relations and to look at how foreign policy, trade, and defense have an impact on the local community. At the 21 Chapters, German and American government officials, journalists, policy analysts, academics and students, business and civil society representatives, and other professional practitioners engage with one another to discuss economic, political, and social issues on the transatlantic agenda.

In 2018, Warburg Chapter programming covered topics including Germany’s changing role in world politics, global approaches to cybersecurity, and the rise of populism in Europe. Ten speakers’ Warburg Chapter tours were funded through the ERP Program for Transatlantic Encounters through the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy as part of the speaker series “Restoring Trust Through Dialogue: German Perspectives on the Future of the Transatlantic Partnership,” which features experts from the successor generation.

Warburg Chapter speakers included **Peter Beyer**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU) and Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation; **Dr. Karen Donfried**, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States; **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Chairman of the American Council on Germany and Vice Chairman of Capital Group International; **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger**, Foreign Editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; **Professor Thomas W. Gaehtgens**, Director of the Getty Research Institute; **Max Gruenig**, President of Ecologic Institute US; **Conrad Haessler**, Spokesperson at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations; **Dr. Karsten Hess**, Counsellor for Science and Technology at the German Embassy; **Professor Dr. Michael Hüther**, Executive Board member at the Federation of German Industries (BDI); and **Ambassador James Melville**, former U.S. Ambassador to Estonia.

Through the Warburg Chapters, the ACG convened more than 70 events in 2018, exposing a broad audience across sectors and generations to deep and nuanced insights about developments in Germany, Europe, and around the world – and how they impact not only the transatlantic partnership but also communities across the United States.



Bundestag members Dr. Andrew Ullmann (FDP); Dr. Harald Weyel (AfD); Katja Keul (The Greens); Dr. Matthias Heider (CDU), Chairman of the Germany-USA Parliamentary Friendship Group; Dr. Gesine Löttsch (Die Linke); Stephan Mayer (CSU); and Marja-Liisa Völlers (SPD)

Congress-Bundestag Seminar

NEW IN 2018

The American Council on Germany collaborated with the Congressional Study Group on Germany to host a delegation of Bundestag members conducting a fact-finding mission to Washington, DC, and Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee, from October 29 to November 1, 2018. The annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar alternates between the United States and Germany, and provides an opportunity for members of the German Bundestag and U.S. Congress and other distinguished guests to discuss the transatlantic relationship and the roles of their countries in solving global challenges in a frank and candid forum. The 2018 delegation, led by **Dr. Matthias Heider**, member of the Bundestag (CDU) and Chairman of the Germany-USA Parliamentary Friendship Group, had meetings focused on transatlantic trade, infrastructure, immigration, health care in the United States, and the domestic political outlook ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

In Washington, the delegation met with **Ambassador Emily M. Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States; **L. Daniel Mullaney**, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East; the Commerce Department; and the Offices of the House Speaker and Democratic Minority Leader. The mission included a visit to the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga with **Congressman Chuck Fleischmann** and Mayor of Chattanooga **Andy Berke** (2009 Young Leader). In Nashville, the delegation attended a town hall with students at Vanderbilt University that was organized by **Dr. Thomas Schwartz** (1989 YL); had briefings with **Congressman Jim Cooper** (D-Tennessee) and Deputy Governor of Tennessee **Jim Henry** about the changing politics and electorate in Tennessee; and a dinner with ACG Warburg Chapter Director and German Honorary Consul **Douglas Berry** (1992 YL).



Andreas Michaelis, State Secretary at the Federal Foreign Office; Dr. Evelyn N. Farkas of the Atlantic Council; Dr. Robert Kagan of the Brookings Institution; and moderator Dr. Steven E. Sokol, ACG President

Deutschlandjahr

Wunderbar together | Germany and the U.S.

NEW IN 2018

In October 2018, the German Federal Foreign Office launched Deutschlandjahr USA – the Year of German-American Friendship – an initiative that showcases how closely Germany and the United States are linked through deep historical ties, shared values, and bold visions for the future. This collaborative initiative is funded by the Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI). The ACG is proud to be one of the many partners in this important initiative.

Under the auspices of Deutschlandjahr, the ACG worked with the Heidelberg University Association to organize a series of Heidelberg Lectures, which bring Nobel Laureates from the Universität Heidelberg to different regions of the United States. In November, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hosted the first Heidelberg Lecture, with **Professor Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle**, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics at MIT. In December, **Professor Dr. Harald zur Hausen**, a virologist known for his groundbreaking research on cervical cancer, spoke in San Diego and Seattle.

Former German diplomat **Stefan Schlüter** visited 12 cities in the Southeast and Midwest in October to discuss German-Jewish themes and contemporary Germany. The speaking tour was organized together with the American Jewish Committee.

In addition, under the heading “Engage America: What Today’s Germany Means for the United States,” the ACG is partnering with the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) to hold a series of public policy discussions with German decision-makers, opinion leaders, and policy experts in 18 communities across the United States. The official kickoff was at WACA’s 2018 National Conference in November.

Programs for the Successor Generation

American-German Young Leaders Conference

The American Council on Germany's American-German Young Leaders Conference, launched in 1973, brings together up to 50 rising stars from government, business, journalism, academia, the military, and the nonprofit sector for a week of intensive dialogue on domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting both countries. In addition to enhancing participants' understanding of the current international agenda, the conferences deepen mutual understanding among the next generation of thought leaders and decision-makers from the United States and Germany. Together the Young Leaders delve into key challenges and set a transatlantic agenda for challenging times.



The 2018 American-German Young Leaders atop the Reichstag

Through briefings on the state of the transatlantic relationship, meetings with high-level guest speakers, 10 plenary discussions on pressing topics in transatlantic relations, site visits to an incubator for startups and the Federal Chancellery alike, the 2018 Young Leaders came to know one another and also one another's perspectives. They had private audiences with State Minister **Niels Annen** from the Foreign Office; Deputy Government Spokesperson **Ulrike Demmer**; former Foreign Minister **Joschka Fischer**; Ambassador **Richard Grenell**, U.S. Ambassador to Germany; the President of the European Investment Bank, **Werner Hoyer**; **Steffen Kampeter**, CEO of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA); **Lt. General Markus Laubenthal** from the Federal Ministry of Defense; EU Commissioner **Günther Oettinger**; State Secretary **Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg** of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; State Secretary **Dr. Georg Schütte** of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research; German journalists **Ali Aslan** (2010 Young Leader) and **Matthias Deiß** (2008 YL); and two key advisors to Chancellor Merkel: **Honey Deihimi**, Head of the Immigration Policy and Integration Unit, and Senior Director for Security Policy **Dominik Mutter**.

The 2018 Young Leaders parted ways with newly gained insights, newly created bonds, and a renewed commitment to building on the American Council on Germany's mission of promoting transatlantic cooperation.

The weeklong experience is just the beginning. In the months and years that follow, alumni hailing from all four-plus decades of the program meet at various events to reconnect with one another and meet new faces from other years of the conference. In 2018, alumni met with **Peter Beyer**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU); **Jennifer Gavito**, U.S. Consul General in Munich, at her Residence; Ambassador **Emily M. Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States; and **Steffen Kampeter**, CEO of the BDA. Alumni also gathered informally on their own around the United States and Europe throughout the year to continue the transatlantic dialogue begun at the Young Leaders Conference.

American Young Leaders

Commander Jonathan V. Ahlstrom
Nuclear Officer Program Manager
U.S. Navy

Florence O. Akinyemi
Montenegro Desk Officer/Balkans
Counterterrorism and Cyber Lead
Office of South Central
European Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Thomas M. Anderson
Regulatory Counsel
Associate General Counsel
Deutsche Telekom

Andrew Barge
Head of Sports Broadcast
Partnerships
Twitter

George E. Bogden
Associate Director, Center on
the Future of Liberal Society
Hudson Institute

Joseph J. Carapiet
Deputy Chief Counsel
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

Megan E. Carroll
Team Leader, Peacekeeping
Evaluation Section
United Nations

RaShelle Davis
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

Luisa M. del Rosal
Executive Director
John G. Tower Center for
Political Studies, Southern Methodist
University

Mary T. Forr
Director of Life Issues
Archdiocese of Washington

Kemp Gouldin
Founder
Because Baseball

Kathryn Harrison
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IBM Blockchain

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Scott Moore
Water Resource Specialist
The World Bank

Daniel A. Perez
Representative – District 116
Florida House of Representatives

Benjamin Siegel
Capitol Hill Reporter/Producer
ABC News

Halle Stockton
Managing Editor
PublicSource

Brook J. Taylor
Senior State Regulatory Affairs
Specialist
Daimler

German Young Leaders

Dennis Bachmann
Senior Advisor
Confederation of German
Employers' Associations

Manuel Bewarder
Deputy Editor
WELT am Sonntag
WELT

Lennart Blech
Head of Sales Planning & Reporting,
Mercedes-AMG
Daimler AG

Ulrike Borrmann
Desk Officer
Federal Foreign Office

Ramona Gierok
Policy Advisor
Federal Chancellery

Maria Gross
Director, Operations
German Tech Entrepreneurship
Center (GTEC)

Dana Heide
Political Correspondent
Handelsblatt

Captain Hendrik Herkert
Intelligence Officer at Eurocorps HQ
Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces)

Bernd Hops
Senior Director, External
Communications
Infineon Technologies AG

**Jakobine Janucek von
Freytag-Loringhoven**
Senior Public Affairs and
Project Manager
Schneider Group

Gyde Jensen
Member of Parliament (FDP)
Chairwoman of the Committee
on Human Rights and
Humanitarian Aid
Deutscher Bundestag

Melanie Lauterbach
Head of Corporate Development
KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH

Peter Prinz Lobkowicz
Consultant
McKinsey & Company, Inc.

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Policy Officer
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Jakob Orthacker
Counsellor to the Executive Board
European Central Bank

Fabian Reischauer
Associate
Noerr LLP

Thomas Rieks
Policy Officer
Federal Ministry of Finance

Elisabeth von Ritter
Policy Officer
Federal Government Commissioner
for Migration, Refugees,
and Integration
Federal Chancellery

Andreas Schmid
Assistant Professor/Health Economist
University of Bayreuth

Rüdiger Scholz
Policy Officer
Federal Chancellery

Axel von Schwanebach
Real Estate Transaction Manager
Deutsche Bank/DWS

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In Gratitude

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The ACG would like to extend great thanks to the following sponsors for their generous support of the American-German Young Leaders Conference:

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Pfizer Deutschland

Thanks also go to:

Michael Dzeba (2015 Young Leader)
Foundation Executive

Ludwig Preller (2014 YL)
GERMANTECH DIGITAL

Dominik Stuehler (2012 YL)
Allen & Overy LLP

Dennis Wetzig (2016 YL)
PIXRAY GmbH

for their support of
the Munich program

Steering Committee

In addition, the ACG is deeply grateful for the time and effort the members of the Steering Committee devote to the conference:

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Arbeitgeberverband Gesamtmetall

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Senior Fellow and Executive Director,
Center for the Study of America
and the West
Foreign Policy Research Institute

Sarmad Hussain
Senior Expert, Public Affairs
Deekeling Arndt Advisors
in Communications GmbH

Edward S. McFadden (Chairman)
(ACG Board member)
Secretary of Communications
Archdiocese of Washington



The 2018 American-German Young Leaders meeting with Honey Deihimi, Head of the Immigration Policy and Integration Unit, at the German Chancellery



Young Leaders meeting with Werner Hoyer (center), President of the European Investment Bank



Young Leaders meeting with Deputy Government Spokesperson Ulrike Demmer



Rep. Daniel A. Perez (2018 Young Leader) of the Florida House of Representatives and Ambassador Richard Grenell, U.S. Ambassador to Germany



Young Leader alumni meeting on the periphery of the Munich Security Conference



Florence O. Akinyemi (2018 YL), Montenegro Desk Officer/Balkans and Counterterrorism and Cyber Lead in the Office of South Central European Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; Joschka Fischer, former Federal Foreign Minister; and Luisa M. del Rosal (2018 YL), Executive Director of the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University

Changemakers in Action

LEADERSHIP MISSION

Sharing Best Practices

“Being part of the McCloy [Leadership] Mission was an incredible chance for me as a young civil servant. It gave me the possibility to see the differences between our national structures, an uncountable number of good organizational possibilities and best-practice examples. Furthermore, especially in times of difficult relations between our nations, it is even more important to stay in contact and network on the low level of municipalities. In a world of globalization and climate change, our cities are all dealing with similar problems and should use every chance of cooperation and mutual support. Besides, it was enriching traveling through the United States with five other young German civil servants from all over the country. It was interesting to find out how different even German cities are, and all the discussions about things we learned helped to structure the huge amount of information and input we got throughout our trip.”

Verena Fürgut

Chief of Staff for the Mayor of the City of Biberach



S. Kenneth Jones (right) meeting with Mayor of Leipzig Burkhard Jung

STUDY TOUR

Addressing Common Challenges

“Traveling with my colleagues in the 2018 Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour has been an invaluable experience. Each of us has particular interests in our areas of expertise. After a few meetings, we became familiar with the questions members of our group might ask. This was interesting because between meetings each of us began to talk about what was going on in our own municipalities, from Schwedt to Baltimore, around the issues that meant the most to us. For me, sustainable urban development has three core concerns: housing, transportation, and organic waste management. An affordable housing shortage is a similar problem in Leipzig and in Greenburgh. There is similar job growth and housing stock growth, but the job growth is in low- to mid-wage jobs while the housing stock growth is in the luxury high-end sector. Accordingly, in both places the workers cannot afford to live in proximity to the jobs (mostly located in the gentrifying areas), so there is potential for low wages to be eaten up by transportation costs to work. To address the common dilemma, both municipalities are offering incentives for developers to build affordable housing and municipal housing companies are trying to increase the amount of low-income and affordable housing. Low-income housing in particular is in a perilous position in both places, with public-private partnerships being relied upon as part of the solution. Whether the incentives for private developers to build enough affordable and low-income housing will be successful I think remains to be seen in either place.”

S. Kenneth Jones

Council Member

Town of Greenburgh, New York



Gaining a Deeper Understanding

"I cover steel industry news for a daily trade publication, Fastmarkets AMM. Trump administration trade policies – notably Section 232 tariffs and quotas on imported steel and aluminum – have dominated our news agenda for much of the last year. It was no secret that U.S.-EU relations were strained before and that Section 232 wasn't going to help matters. I wanted to figure out how we had gotten to such a juncture and what might be done to repair things. The ACG's McCloy Fellowship on Global Trends gave me the opportunity to travel to Germany ... to explore these topics in greater depth than I had been able to while on daily assignments. It also allowed me to explore them from a global perspective. I had not previously appreciated, for example, how Section 232 – and its national security justification – might pose a threat to multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). I had also not previously realized how Section 232's application to traditional allies such as the EU might have hurt U.S. standing in the world. By diving into these topics over the course of a month – I interviewed not only steel industry lobbyists in Düsseldorf but also port executives in Hamburg as well as political insiders in Berlin – I came to a disturbing conclusion: Trump's unilateral approach to trade might be leading to decreased U.S. influence in Europe at a time when the influence of strategic rivals such as China is on the rise. In short, the transatlantic alliance, taken for granted for decades, is in dire need of renewed attention and care."

Michael Cowden
Correspondent, Steel
Fastmarkets AMM



2018 Young Leader Brook Taylor (right) of Mercedes-Benz Research and Development North America with (from left) Steering Committee member Sarmad Hussain of Deekeling Arndt Advisors in Communications GmbH and fellow 2018 Young Leaders August Prinz Wittgenstein, actor and screenwriter; Luisa M. del Rosal of the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies at SMU; Jakobine Janucek von Freytag-Loringhoven of Schneider Group; Andrew Barge of Twitter; and Capt. Hendrik Herkert of the Bundeswehr

YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

Building Common Ground

"The 2018 ACG Young Leaders program was unlike anything I've experienced before. Our group of 50 American and German delegates were given a seat at the most powerful and influential tables in Germany to speak directly with high-level officials from the Chancellery, the Bundestag, the European Union, the U.S. government, and more. We were allowed unprecedented access to decision-makers and influencers shaping transatlantic relations in real time. Furthermore, we were given the tools and encouragement by the ACG leadership to dive in head first with the understanding that the future of our two nations will be determined by people like ourselves. It was a life-changing experience which provided me with a deeper understanding of the tense and vital relationship between our two regions. And most importantly, I developed a network of lifelong friends stretching across the globe who still stay in touch – sharing career opportunities, organizing meet-ups, or just sending pictures from around the world. I encourage anyone interested in politics, history, international business, journalism, or any curious-natured souls to apply and tap into an experience that will open your mind to the vast world of geopolitics and accelerate your international career."

Brook Taylor (2018 Young Leader)
Regulatory Principal
Mercedes-Benz Research and Development North America



Fellowships and Leadership Exchanges

Leadership Missions

The ACG's Leadership Missions bring together small groups of experts and practitioners for two weeks of meetings on the other side of the Atlantic. Launched in 2016, these programs give participants an in-depth look at how their transatlantic counterparts are addressing today's challenges. In the fall of 2018, six Americans took part in the Leadership Mission on Agriculture, Food Security, and Resource Scarcity, which explored issues such as trade, technology, livestock and organic food regulation, and governmental representation. Also in the fall, six Germans traveled to Atlanta, Little Rock, Nashville, and Washington, DC, to take part in the McCloy Leadership Mission on Urban Affairs and Sustainability. The ACG extends its thanks to the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Deutscher Bauernverband (German Farmers' Association) and to the Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities) and the National League of Cities for their cooperation.

Study Tours

In 2018, the ACG launched the Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour, which convened experts in urban affairs from the United States and Germany to address challenges such as mobility, housing, water, structural change, demographic trends, and sustainability. In the spring, the group of 17 met in Berlin and Leipzig for a week of meetings to discuss these issues and more with their counterparts. In the fall, the same group gathered for a second time for a weeklong study tour in Pittsburgh and Denver, where they learned how American cities are addressing similar challenges. This project was made possible through the generous support of the ERP Transatlantic Program, managed by the German Ministry for Economics and Energy, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Fellowships

For more than 40 years, the American Council on Germany has awarded fellowships to journalists, scholars, and other early to mid-career professionals from a variety of fields to travel across the Atlantic to conduct research on key topics in the German-American partnership. Fellows spend several weeks meeting with their transatlantic counterparts, delving into archives, investigating stories, exchanging best practices, and building new networks. Twelve individuals were named fellows in 2018.

McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends

Under the auspices of the McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends, fellows explore common challenges on both sides of the Atlantic by conducting research in the areas of urbanization, climate change and sustainability, technological breakthroughs, and demographics and social change. The fellows named in 2018 are researching trade relations, the rise of populism, changes in the religious demography of Germany, and gender issues on either side of the Atlantic.

Goldman and Hunt Fellowships

Awarded to bright young American academics, the Dr. Guido Goldman Fellowship for the Study of German and European Economic and International Affairs and the Dr. Richard M. Hunt Fellowship for the Study of German Politics, Society, and Culture allow fellows to conduct research necessary for the completion of their dissertation and/or book projects. The 2018 Hunt and Goldman Fellows are examining the reinvention of photography in Weimar Germany; the history and development of Euromissiles; and food, land, and the social question in modern Germany. The Hunt and Goldman Fellowships were established in 2003.

Kellen Fellowships

The Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen Fellowships are awarded to Berlin-based journalists to conduct interviews and complete research on current trends in transatlantic relations. Fellows have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics pertaining to German-American relations. The 2018 Kellen Fellows are researching technology, culture, and politics of immersion; automated decision-making systems and AI for policing and public security; the future of American infrastructure and politics; and social welfare and homelessness in the United States. The Kellen Fellowships began in 1997 thanks to the generous support of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

DZ BANK Fellowship

NEW IN 2018

Launched in 2018, the DZ BANK Fellowship on Transatlantic Business and Finance provides individuals with the opportunity to spend up to three months researching current trends in the economy and business. The inaugural DZ BANK Fellow researched the blockchain ecosystem with specific emphasis on its implications for transatlantic trade and supply-chain finance. He interviewed industry experts within the trade finance ecosystem – including traditional financial service firms, fintech startups, technology leaders, trade insurance and logistics providers, and government entities in both the United States and Europe – and also conducted a research study with 1,500 industry participants familiar with blockchain.

Partners in Promoting Transatlantic Cooperation

McCloy Awards Dinner

Honoring Joe Kaeser and Siemens and 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker

The American Council on Germany's 26th annual John J. McCloy Awards Dinner brought together about 325 people to pay tribute to two leaders who have had an important impact on transatlantic relations, to highlight the longtime close partnership between Germany and the United States, and to celebrate the future of German-American cooperation. The ACG honored **Joe Kaeser**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, with the 2018 McCloy Award and **Penny Pritzker**, 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Founder and Chairman of PSP Partners, with the 2018 Transatlantic Leadership Award at Capitale in New York City on December 3, 2018.

The American Council on Germany presents its prestigious John J. McCloy Award to a prominent CEO of a German or an American company for his or her key roles in promoting transatlantic economic relations. The awards, first presented in 1993, are named in honor of John J. McCloy, the founding Chairman of the American Council on Germany and the first civilian U.S. High Commissioner for Germany after World War II.



ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman of Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; Transatlantic Leadership Award recipient Penny Pritzker, 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce; attorney and civic leader Kimberly Marteau Emerson; and ACG Board member Andrew Gundlach, Director at First Eagle Holdings, Inc.

ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Vice Chairman of Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, presided over the gala dinner. **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York, read a letter from Chancellor Angela Merkel and also recounted the strong impact his experience as an ACG Young Leader had on his career trajectory. ACG President **Dr. Steven E. Sokol** gave an overview of the Council's recent initiatives and moderated a panel discussion with the honorees.

Commenting on the awardees, Ambassador Emerson said: "Through their leadership, both have shown an adept understanding of the past, a strong sense of the challenges and trends facing us today, and visions for the future that respond to the volatility and changes posed by the digital age. It is a personal privilege to honor these outstanding leaders for their passion and dedication to transatlantic relations."

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Kaeser highlighted the importance of dialogue in these times of division: "Today it takes dialogue to unite a divided society. Today it takes courage to speak up against racism, nationalism, and speak up for human rights. Today it also takes, more than ever, people like John McCloy. And last but not least, it takes leaders who show our people the way." Ms. Pritzker underlined the ongoing importance of German-American ties, saying that "our partnership was and is vital to getting things done globally."

Both honorees made a heartfelt mention of the pivotal role of the late President George H.W. Bush – whom Mr. Kaeser called "one of America's greatest sons" – in building transatlantic relations and helping to foster Germany's unification.

In the panel discussion, Mr. Kaeser and Ms. Pritzker addressed topics including the roles of multinational corporations in a globalized world, how to address the skills gap and prepare for AI and other technological change, and how best to preserve and strengthen transatlantic relations in the coming years.



A panel discussion with McCloy Award recipient Joe Kaeser, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG, and Penny Pritzker, 38th U.S. Secretary of Commerce, moderated by ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol



Barbara Humpton, CEO of Siemens USA, and ACG Board member Stanford S. Warshawsky, Chairman of Bismarck Capital, LLC



Joe Kaeser delivering his acceptance speech

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Corporate Membership Program

The American Council on Germany is committed to building connections among the American and German corporate communities and advancing the understanding of key economic and political issues on the transatlantic agenda through its corporate membership program. The program provides business leaders with opportunities to network with other professionals and to meet with German and other European officials to gain a more thorough understanding of the nuances of current events. Corporate membership is tailored to the needs of business executives and also companies with multiple representatives who would benefit from ACG activities and resources.

Corporate members receive invitations to Council events and Hot Topics conference calls with experts, ACG publications, informational offerings such as our 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 2018, the ACG offered corporate members a private reception with **Ambassador Emily M. Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States; a private discussion and dinner with **Ambassador Christoph Heusgen**, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations; a discussion and dinner with **Walter Russell Mead**, Distinguished Fellow at Hudson Institute, James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities at Bard College, and Global View Columnist at the *Wall Street Journal*, hosted by **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, then German Ambassador to the United States, at his Residence, held in connection with the German-American Conference; and a private discussion and dinner with **Dr. Reinhard Ploss**, Chief Executive Officer and member of the Management Board of Infineon Technologies AG.

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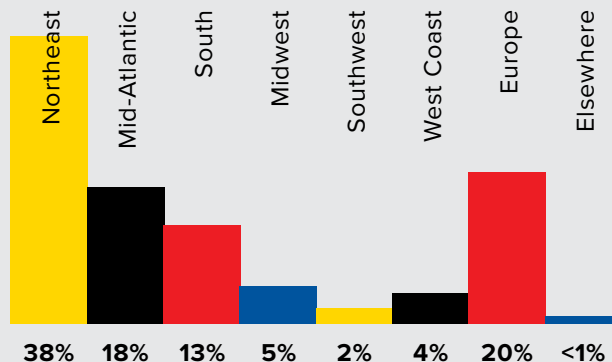
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