

Notes from the Alumni Meeting held on Tuesday, May 19th 2009, 5.30 to 7.30 PM
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Present:

Jörg Metger, Consul-General of Montreal and his wife Erika
Anya Mengewein, Speaker for Cultural Affairs, General Consulate of Montreal
Heidelberg Alumni: Christopher Byrne, Suzana Kafadar, Mo Klinkert, Jörg Klinkert, Benoit Léger, José Nieto
Guests: Margot Nieto, Claudia Flasdieck

Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI): Information was presented on Heidelberg University's umbrella office overseeing all of its alumni associations abroad.

Heidelberg Alumni (HA) in Canada: The numbers for known Heidelberg alumni in Canada are as follows: 347, approximately 200 with valid addresses and currently 51 registered with HAI. (Figures are as of the database established in 1996.)

Existing and Proposed HA Clubs: Overseas HA clubs currently include Heidelberg Alumni Greece (HAGR) est. 2002; Heidelberg Alumni Luxemburg (HALU) est. 2006; Heidelberg Alumni France (HAFR), est. 2008; and Heidelberg Alumni US (HAUS), est. 2008. HA clubs in formation include Heidelberg Alumni Canada (HACA), Heidelberg Alumni Mexico (HAME), and Heidelberg Alumni Finland (HAFI).

HACA Contacts to Date: At the February 2009 meeting, Dr Mo Klinkert volunteered to attempt to contact known University alumni in Canada. As a result of her efforts, 48 of 240 alumni identified responded. They are geographically distributed as follows: 22 in the Toronto, Ottawa, London, Hamilton area, 16 in Montreal, 4 in Edmonton, 3 in Vancouver, 2 in Halifax, and 1 in Winnipeg.

HACA Activities Update: After consultation with Silke Rodenberg (head of HAI), Irmintraud Jost (Director of Heidelberg University Association in New York), and Peter Nazaruk (a paralegal alumnus from Edmonton), it has been determined that HACA is not likely in the near future to register as an association. At the moment the number of interested alumni does not justify this step. Instead, it has been proposed that unofficial chapters be formed in Montreal and Toronto, with the possibility of a third serving Western Canada.

Possible HACA Activities for the Montreal Area: Among the activities proposed for HACA/Montreal are a lecture by an HU alumnus. Prof Christopher Byrne, Halifax would be pleased to present his popular talk ("The Modernity of the Ancient Greeks") and an informal twice-yearly Stammtisch with October and March as possible months.

Questions that need to be answered are interest in the lecture proposal, and in regard to the Stammtisch, where it should be held.

HACA as a Source of Information for Potential HU Students: It has been suggested that HACA could play an important role in encouraging Canadian school graduates to consider attending HU or university students to participate in year-abroad programmes at the university. In this regard Prof Benoit Léger, a faculty member at Concordia University, volunteered to provide HACA with the name and address of the person at Concordia responsible for student exchanges. In a related development, Dr. Jörg Klinkert, principal of the Alexander von Humboldt German International School in Montreal (AvH) informed the

group of this summer's planned visit by AvH students to Heidelberg University. The trip, subsidised by the university is intended to give potential students (who could also be future goodwill ambassadors) first-hand experience of HU. The group would be accompanied by Claudia Flasdieck, an AvH teacher.

A Reminder: On June 26, 2011 Alumni Day, alumni from all over the world are invited to help celebrate Heidelberg University's 625th birthday. They are also encouraged to visit the university and take part in various celebratory events throughout academic year 2010/2011.

Golden Diploma Award. The highlight of the evening was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the granting of a PhD degree to Prof Nieto by Heidelberg University. The award was presented to Prof Jose Nieto by Montreal's German Consul-General, Herr Jörg Metger.

Letter of Invitation: The following letter was sent by HAI, who asked that it be shared with HACA members.

Heidelberg Alumni U.S. (HAUS) will meet for their 2nd annual national alumni meeting on the weekend of September 25 to 27, 2009 in San Francisco, California. HAUS would like to extend the invitation to their neighbors in the North and invite all Heidelberg Alumni residing in Canada to join the festivities, to network and share memories.

The weekend will be kicked off with a casual dinner on Friday night.

Saturday morning is reserved for the "business" part, the annual meeting of HAUS. That means all Canadian Alumni are free to do some sightseeing in San Francisco.

Since the boat tour around Manhattan was such a success at the inaugural meeting in 2008, we are planning to offer a sailing trip in San Francisco Bay on Saturday afternoon.

The main event of the weekend will be dinner on Saturday evening, providing alumni and friends plenty of opportunities for networking and sharing memories. The speaker of the evening will be a scientist from Heidelberg University, who will highlight recent research at the university.

Sunday morning starting at 8:30 AM we are invited to an Election Party at the Goethe Institut to follow the German national election which takes place that day. The first results are expected for 9 AM Pacific Time/6 PM German Time.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in San Francisco!