

Arthur F.

BURNS

FELLOWSHIP



30 Years of Transatlantic Dialogue



"For me, I can say the fellowship made my subsequent career. About a year and a half after leaving CNN after the fellowship, I was called up by the network and asked to be their Berlin correspondent. I have since reported not only from Germany, but from countries like Iraq, Pakistan and various African and European nations."

— Frederik Pleitgen, 2005 Fellow

Hosted by: CNN, Atlanta

Senior International Correspondent, CNN, London Bureau

Frederik Pleitgen reporting on Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans

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The Arthur F. Burns Fellowship was established 30 years ago to offer young German journalists the opportunity to report from the United States. The program was expanded in 1990 to include U.S. journalists, making the program a true professional exchange. In 2013, the fellowship expanded to include Canada, further broadening its reach.

The **media industry** has changed radically since 1988—before the internet and 24-hour news shows fundamentally altered the way journalists produce the news. But the basics of reporting remain the same. Journalists who know their beats thoroughly, who explore every angle, and who have access to a wide range of knowledgeable sources, are those who produce the most thoughtful and informative news. Ensuring that even young reporters have opportunities to learn new perspectives and deepen their knowledge by reporting overseas has a profound impact on the quality of their news coverage, which in turn benefits their readers and viewers.

The **political landscape** has also changed dramatically over the past 30 years. Germany was still divided into two countries when the Burns Fellowship started bringing West German participants to the U.S. The Soviet Union was still a significant threat to Europe and the United States, and the European Union had only 12 members. Yet the fellowship mission—to increase public knowledge and understanding about the partner country—remains as vital now as then. A generation of Germans has grown up in a reunified nation, the Soviet Union no longer exists, and the whole map of Europe is different. Yet Russia is a renewed threat to European and global stability, and although the EU now has 28 members and is more integrated than ever, it faces new and greater challenges due to Brexit, nationalist leaders and a more globalized world.

Thirty years later, the U.S.-German relationship is more fragile than it's been in years and the media is struggling with an evolving industry and a distrustful public. Improving **transatlantic understanding** and dialogue through strengthening the media and professional exchanges is more critical now than ever. Recent classes of fellows have each produced more than 250 stories during their time across the Atlantic, improving understanding among their audience of important global issues, such as the refugee crisis and international trade deals.



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HOSTS

Hundreds of media organizations across the United States, Germany and Canada have hosted Burns Fellows over the past three decades.

Host organizations have varied from regional outlets such as *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Der Tagesspiegel* to national dailies and broadcasters such as *The Washington Post*, CNN, *Der Spiegel* and Bayerischer Rundfunk. Hosts often gain as much from the experience as their

visiting journalist. Fellows produce work for their host media, sometimes on local topics from an outsider perspective, and sometimes on issues in their home country—lending their unique expertise to their host.



“Beyond [the] wonderful reports Georg has produced, he has been a valuable contributor in many other ways. He has worked in the field with our team of news reporters and videographers on dozens of stories...NECN has been so grateful and proud to have Georg as part of our team these past two months. We would like to thank the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship and the International Center for Journalists for giving us the opportunity to work with Georg and share his fine journalism with our 3.7 million subscribers.”

—Tom Melville,
Assistant News Director,
New England Cable News;
Hosted: Georg Matthes (2007),
EU Correspondent for
Deutsche Welle, Belgium

While based at ProPublica, 2015 Burns Fellow Pia Dangelmayer joined their team on a large investigative report on New York City's enforcement of the nuisance abatement laws. That report won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for public service and led to a series of legal reforms in New York City. Dangelmayer also continued collaborating with ProPublica after returning home to Bayerische Rundfunk in Munich.



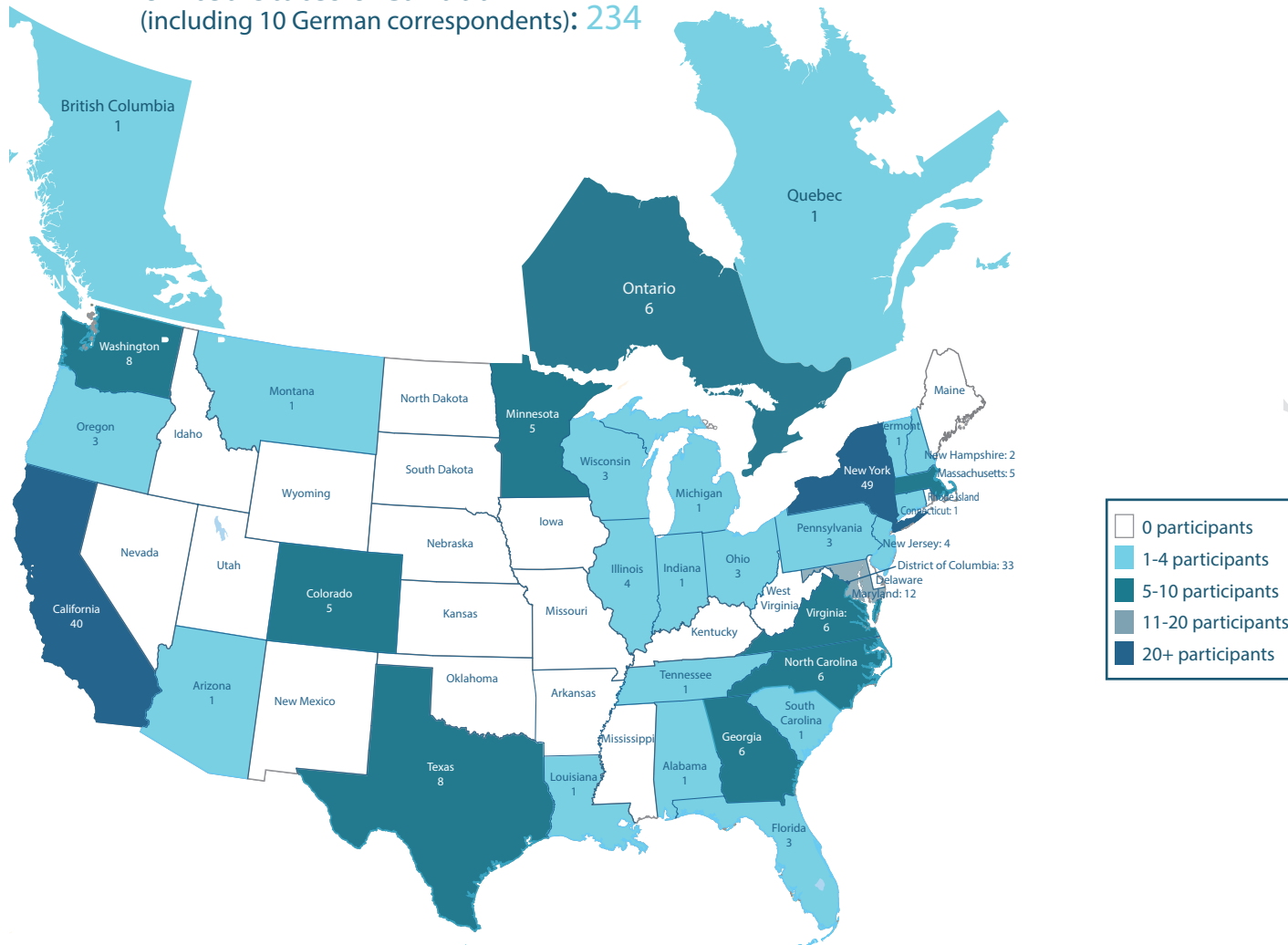
“Our experience with Burns Fellows has been uniformly excellent and Pia Dangelmayer was one of the best. Not only did she work on a major investigation of New York City’s abuse of its nuisance abatement laws, she produced a timely piece on the Syrian refugee crisis and its effect on Europe. After returning to Munich, we collaborated with Pia on a major story on how American stockholders avoid paying taxes on dividends from German companies. That story had a major impact in Europe and will likely lead to a rewrite of German law on the subject.”

— Steve Engelberg, Editor-in-Chief,
ProPublica;

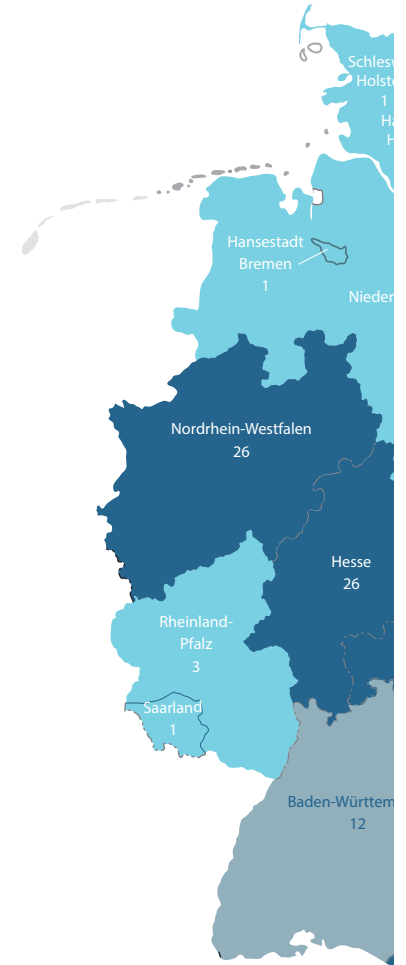
Hosted: Pia Dangelmayer (2015),
Investigative Researcher and Reporter, BR
Recherche, ARD, Munich

ALUMNI

United States & Canada
(including 10 German correspondents): 234



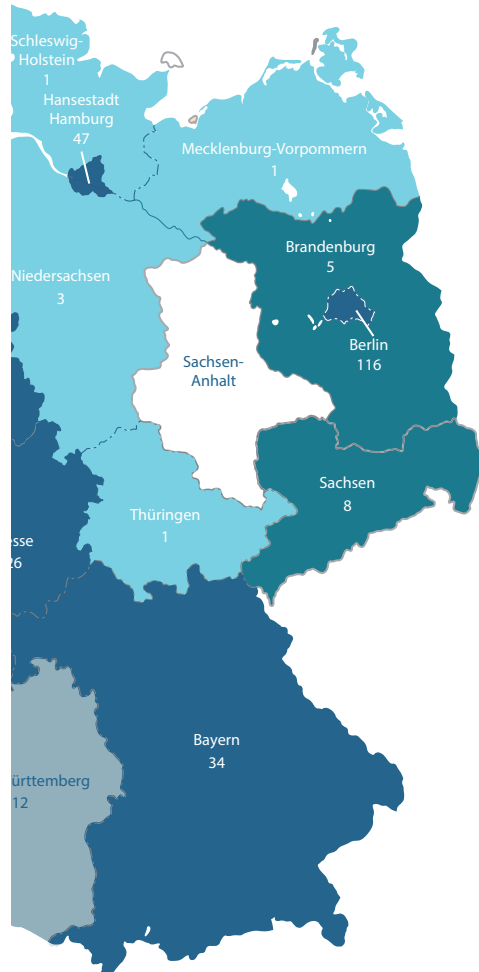
Germany (including 17 U



560 alumni live and work around the globe

17 U.S. correspondents): 285

Around the world: 41



Austria: 3
Belgium: 3
Egypt: 2

France: 3
Hungary: 1
Israel: 2

Italy: 2
Japan: 1
Mexico: 1
Russia: 2

Singapore: 2
Sweden: 1
Switzerland: 2
Taiwan: 1

Thailand: 1
The Netherlands: 2
Turkey: 1
United Kingdom: 11

Ayla Jean Yackley in Istanbul

"Few programs allow journalists at this relatively early stage in their careers this kind of concrete professional experience overseas. To do that in Europe's biggest economy and in one of its most exciting cities was one of the best experiences of my life."

—Ayla Jean Yackley, 1999 Fellow Correspondent, Istanbul, Reuters



"The Burns Fellowship had a profound influence on me and on how I perceive journalism. It was about the best time I had in my early career and in many ways shaped my future one."

—Thomas Reichart, 2003 Fellow East Asia Bureau Chief, ZDF German TV

Thomas Reichart reporting from Tacloban, Philippines, after a super-typhoon hit in November 2014

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Over the past 30 years, the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship has made an extensive and lasting impact on both the participating journalists and transatlantic relations. By providing journalists the opportunity to broaden their perspectives and deepen their coverage, the Burns Fellowship helps strengthen the media and preserve the transatlantic bond.

