



ARTHUR F. BURNS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2023 Annual Report

Mission

The Arthur F. Burns Fellowship program is an exchange of journalists between Germany and the United States/Canada, with the primary purpose of increasing public knowledge and understanding about the three countries, and the relations between them, through independent mass media. A parallel goal of the program is to develop reporters who are interested, skilled and informed about transatlantic relations. On its 25th anniversary in 2013, the fellowship expanded to include Canada.

Each year, the program brings together 10 reporters from each side of the Atlantic and, following a week-long orientation program in Washington, places them in newsrooms of the other country to work for two months, producing articles and programs for home and foreign audiences.

Alumni of the Burns program constitute a strong and growing network of journalists, many of whom move into positions of greater responsibility in the United States, Canada and Germany. The program is supported by a board comprising leaders in journalism, business, diplomacy and government.



2022 Burns Fellows at German Embassy reception.

Cover Photos (from top, l to r): Jonas Schreijäg (Burns 2021); Ibrahim Naber (Burns 2021); Stefanie Bolzen (Burns 2003); Katie Brigham (Burns 2021); Claudia Scholz (Burns 2022) with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; and Eliza Collins (Burns 2022).
Writing and Editing: Maia Curtis; Design: Jill Gallagher

Chairman's Letter

After spending much of the pandemic reporting remotely, often isolated from even their newsrooms, the Burns Fellows of 2021 came to their assignments with an exceptional level of enthusiasm and commitment.

The Arthur F. Burns Fellowship is predicated on the idea that journalism brings understanding through in-person reporting, meeting sources, and delving into new communities. The best investigations, narratives, and analyses all stem from this traditional reporting.

Burns Fellows tell us that they never would have discovered the best, most memorable and often most important stories they produce had they not been forced to learn about a new place, new people, new ideas. From a conversation over coffee in a host newsroom to seeing a flyer on the streets, fellows soak up fresh ideas, take chances and are inspired by new opportunities. The result is in-depth, nuanced reporting that they never could have produced from their home newsroom.

In addition, by bringing these journalists across the Atlantic to learn and bond together, the program encourages creative cooperation. Recent examples include German and Canadian reporters providing joint coverage of their concurrent national elections, and U.S. and German teams reporting on the European energy crisis. Everyone benefits from this increased collaboration between media in different countries—the reporters, their home and host newsrooms and, of course, their audiences.

Each year, these impressive journalists produce hundreds of stories during their fellowships that enlighten and educate their readers and viewers and that would not have been possible without the Burns Fellowship. And the program has a lasting impact on its alumni, who learn new ways of thinking about their work and their world. When the Ukraine war started in 2022, dozens of Burns alumni rushed to the front lines to bring those important stories home to their audiences.

We are grateful to our many donors who are proud to support strong international reporting which has an enduring impact on the transatlantic relationship.

Sincerely,

Marcus W. Brauchli



Marcus W. Brauchli

*Managing Partner,
North Base Media;
Former editor-in-chief of
The Wall Street Journal and
The Washington Post*

“

*Everyone benefits
from this increased
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media in different
countries—the reporters,
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newsrooms and, of
course, their audiences.*

Stephanie Wolf (Burns 2021)

Freelance Audio Reporter and Photographer, Denver, CO

(previously Arts and Culture Reporter, Louisville Public Media/WFPL News, Louisville, KY)

Hosted by: Common Ground, Berlin



Wolf interviewing a source

Wolf teach schoolchildren about their respective painful histories, aired in January of 2022, and a year later, it won a 2023 RIAS Media Prize for Best Radio Story. My time in Germany during the fellowship was very special and formative.”

Claudia Scholz (Burns 2022)

Editor and Reporter, *Handelsblatt*, Düsseldorf

Hosted by: *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto, ON



Scholz in Toronto

its potential in gas, oil and hydrogen. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz travelled to Toronto with a business delega-

tion to meet Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau—and I found myself right in the middle of it! It was a great opportunity for me to be on the Burns Fellowship with my host newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, during this eventful time for German-Canadian relations. From the beginning, I was treated as an equal reporter and welcomed in the newsroom. Editors showed great interest in all topics related to the Ukrainian war and its consequences for Germany and relations with Canada. I therefore focused on these topics, where I could offer added value in the eyes of my host. This paid off: I was able to publish articles in *The Globe and Mail* continuously from my first week.”

Janice Dickson (Burns 2021)

Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*, Ottawa, ON

Hosted by: *Die Welt*, Berlin

“For the first month of the fellowship, I covered the aftermath of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, focusing on Canada and Germany’s efforts to evacuate people who assisted their governments from the country. With talk of a potential refugee crisis, I decided to travel to eastern Turkey near the Iranian border to talk with Afghan refugees who made the perilous journey. I spent hours speaking with exhausted refugees about their trip and hopes for the future. The day after returning to Berlin, I learned that Ramstein Air Base had been transformed into a massive evacuation center, so I went there to talk with Afghans and to U.S. officials about the process. I filed stories from Ramstein to both *The Globe* and *Die Welt*, my host paper. In September, I shifted my attention to politics as two national campaigns were well underway in both Germany and Canada. I wrote stories about Germany’s election for *The Globe and Mail*, alongside *Die Welt* reporter Ricarda Breyton, who *The Globe* was hosting in Toronto. Together, we wrote a story about the Canadian election for *Die Welt*. It was a really wonderful partnership.”



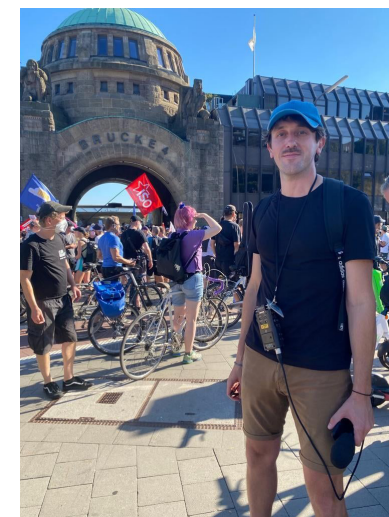
Dickson interviewing Afghan refugees

Kenneth Sharpe (Burns 2022)

Journalist, National Radio Host, and Producer, CBC, Toronto, ON & St. John’s, NL

Hosted by: Reuters, Berlin

“In my second week in Germany, I traveled to Hamburg to embed with European climate activists. Following a lead, and working closely with another fellow, I took a chance with my coverage that week. To my surprise, all my pitches were accepted and I landed an A1 position with the article back in Canada, while also getting good play from a subsequent accompanying audio report. This event would have gone unreported to Canadian audiences if not for my spontaneous trip. Even after 15 years as a journalist, I experienced so many firsts in my career on this fellowship, which were directly related to the opportunities the Burns placement enabled and supported.”



Sharpe reporting from Hamburg

David Uberti (Burns 2022)

Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*, New York, NY

Hosted by: *Handelsblatt*, Düsseldorf



Uberti reporting at a German factory

“A lot of journalism is being in the right place at the right time. My Burns Fellowship accomplished both, placing me near the heart of Europe’s largest economy as it scrambled to wean itself off Russian energy after the Kremlin invaded Ukraine. I reported for *The Wall Street Journal* from Germany and nearby countries as households, manufacturers and

other businesses faced skyrocketing energy bills. Coincidentally, while I was producing this coverage, *WSJ* began looking for a reporter to cover energy markets from my home office, New York. I jumped at the opportunity. I’ve switched beats and have since been immersing myself in a topic I didn’t realize I was so interested in—and that the Burns Fellowship allowed me to explore. Right place, right time.”

Ibrahim Naber (Burns 2021)

Chief Reporter, *Welt/Welt am Sonntag*, Berlin

Hosted by: The City, New York, NY

“During my Burns Fellowship in the U.S., I felt privileged to have the freedom to implement my ideas independently as a reporter. Over the two months, I covered a range of topics, including a Trump rally in Alabama, a vaccination campaign in the Bronx, and an interview with ex-CIA director General Petraeus for *WELT AM SONNTAG*. I was also called upon a few times to provide live coverage from New York for our TV station. For my home newsroom, I focused on two larger projects. The first was a short documentary for *WELT* on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 that profiled former police officer Will Jimeno who miraculously survived after being buried in the rubble. The second was a longer research project into America’s (radical) right movement, for which I filmed several days in Montana with co-fellow Jonas Schreijäg. This was a crazy week in a parallel world, but it was very valuable from a journalistic perspective. Jonas and I produced an award-winning ARD documentary from the material, which was broadcast in late 2021.”



Naber interviewing Will Jimeno

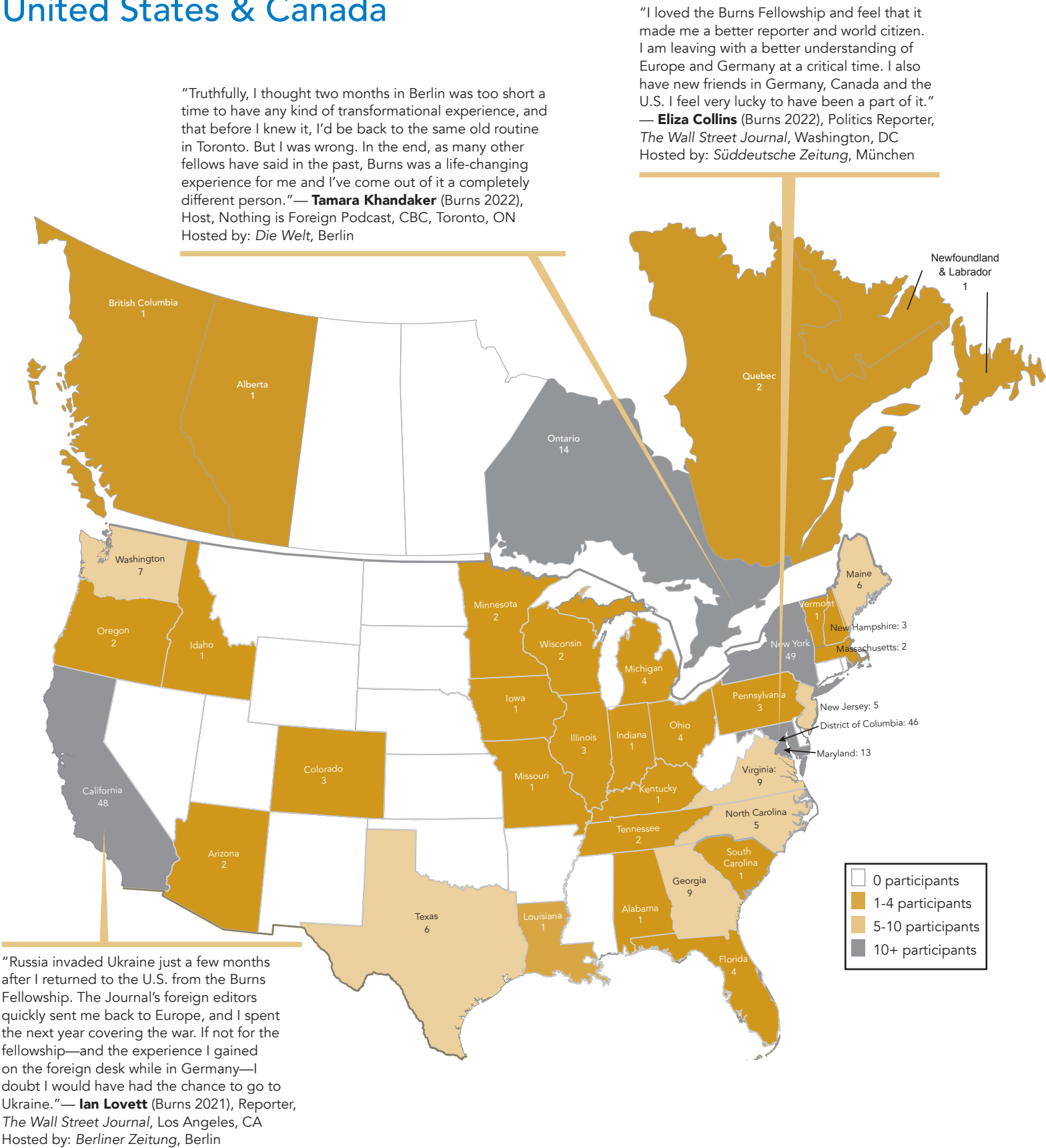
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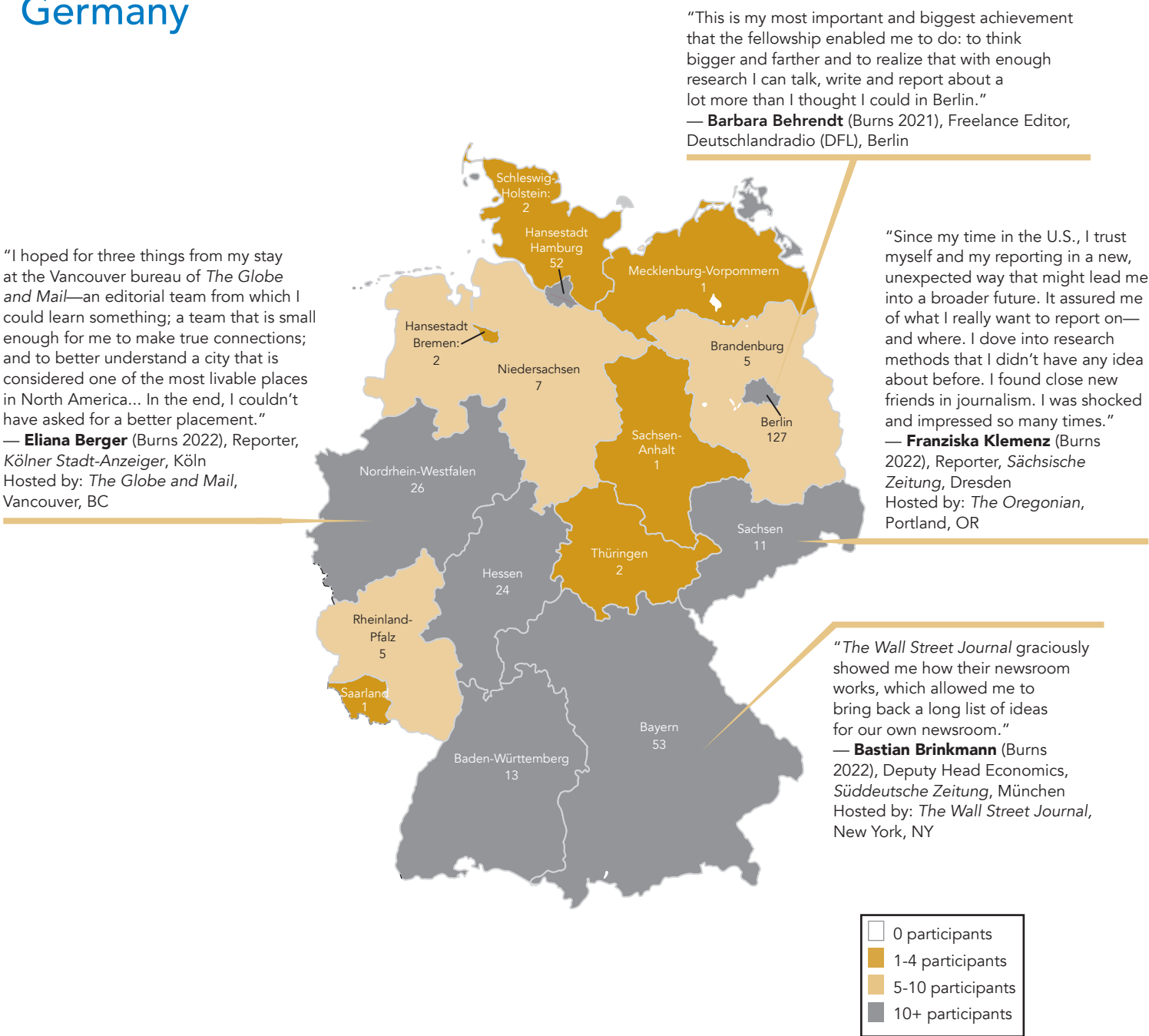
Where Burns Alumni Are Now

The program's 646 alumni span across their countries and the world

United States & Canada



Germany



Burns alumni are also living and working in these countries:

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Australia: 1 | France: 2 | The Netherlands: 1 | Switzerland: 3 |
| Austria: 3 | Ghana: 1 | Nigeria: 1 | Turkey: 2 |
| Belgium: 7 | Hungary: 1 | Russia: 4 | United Kingdom: 10 |
| China: 1 | Israel: 1 | Singapore: 2 | Uzbekistan: 1 |
| Egypt: 1 | Italy: 3 | Sweden: 1 | |



Stefanie Bolzen

U.S. Correspondent, WELT

“

...having the chance to see the world from a U.S. perspective is crucial to understanding geopolitics.

Stefanie Bolzen was a junior reporter and editor at WELT's foreign desk in Berlin in 2003 when she decided to apply for the Burns Fellowship. The Bush administration had begun making a public case for an invasion of Iraq in 2002 and the war officially began in March 2003. Stefanie was fascinated by the U.S. and wanted to better understand the changing geopolitics after the September 11 attacks and the reasons for invading Iraq.

"Bush's decision had massive political repercussions for Europe. The Iron Curtain had only been down for a decade, and now there was a new split between East and West because of the Iraq War," she wrote. "At the same time, I needed to understand first-hand what made the U.S. go into this war. I came back with the understanding that the U.S. is driven by a sense of invincibility."

She was placed at the *Chicago Tribune* and was impressed by and excited to learn from her new colleagues. As she wrote, "At the *Chicago Tribune*, I learned a lot from award-winning journalists, how superbly accurate and passionate they are about their work. Most importantly, having the chance to see the world from a U.S. perspective is crucial to understanding geopolitics."

One memorable experience during her time there was when she accompanied a city desk colleague to an assignment at O'Hare airport for the opening of a new hangar. At one point her colleague said to her, "Stefanie, you got to meet our senator!"

She recalled, "I remember this tall guy coming up to

me, shaking my hand: 'Hey, I am Barack. You are from Germany? Amazing!' I should have kept in touch."

Although she did not manage to keep in touch with the future U.S. president, she wrote that her Burns Fellowship experience "taught me to always be curious, seize the opportunities, build networks and be a team player." Her experience also confirmed that she wanted to be a foreign correspondent.

In 2007, she was awarded the Milena Jesenská Fellowship and spent three months at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, researching and writing a paper on Central and Eastern European transition countries.

In 2009, WELT sent her to Brussels as their EU and NATO correspondent. After four years there, she moved to London to become WELT's United Kingdom and Ireland correspondent. She spent 10 years there "living and breathing the historic chapter of Brexit," as well as reporting on five prime ministers and the death of Queen Elizabeth. When she left in 2023, she hosted a farewell party in the House of Commons attended by the British Foreign Secretary, along with many ambassadors and friends in the domestic and foreign press.

Twenty years and many foreign reporting assignments later, she is now back in the United States as WELT's Washington, DC, correspondent. Based on her track record of staying curious, building networks and being a team player, she will no doubt make the most of this opportunity too.

Jennifer Kho

Executive Editor, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“

The Burns Fellowship started me on my career trajectory that led me to becoming the leader I am today.



Jennifer Kho had worked for a few years as a reporter for local daily newspapers when she decided to apply for the Burns Fellowship in 2004. She had dreamed of becoming a foreign correspondent, as well as wanting to learn more about the practice of journalism in another country.

"The fellowship surpassed my expectations," she said recently. "I met so many great people and had an amazing time!"

She was placed at Dow Jones Newswires in Frankfurt and quickly became immersed in the newsroom and German business culture. She learned about financial statements, business filings and earnings reports and was excited to immediately start reporting and writing articles.

When asked about highlights from her fellowship, she provided a long list, including "turning in my first story and getting good feedback from my manager, who seemed impressed that I managed to get additional information from an interview while still meeting the 15-minute wire deadline; attending German press conferences; singing Johnny Cash with a fun group of Germans at a party and also learning the lyrics to '99 Luftballons' with Burns Fellow Julie Siple on another occasion; and successfully pitching, reporting and writing a business feature on Germany's shrinking flower industry that ended up being published in *The Wall Street Journal*."

She managed to accomplish so much despite arriving on crutches due to a serious knee injury sustained a few months before the program. In fact, that situation ended up giving her unique insights during her fellowship.

"Having to navigate finding a place to live, transportation, a gym (so I could do my physical therapy), all while living by myself in another country taught me important life skills and left me feeling confident in my ability to take care of myself. (Luckily I spoke German!) Experiencing this fellowship while disabled also gave me another lens through which to connect with people and experience life in Germany."

While gaining experience as a foreign correspondent was significant and learning German song lyrics was a bonus, the financial reporting experience turned out to be transformational. As she wrote, "the fellowship helped me transition into business reporting."

Right after the fellowship, she started working at the business magazine *Red Herring*, where she covered green technology—among other issues—and benefited from her reporting experience in Germany, which has been a leader in solar power. She later became a founding editor of Greentech Media and then a freelancer focusing on business and technology.

"Ultimately, my experience in those roles led to me getting recruited by *The Guardian* to help launch a sustainable business section in the U.S., where I was eventually promoted to partnerships editor and then managing editor," she said.

Jennifer is now the executive editor of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where she has been praised as a tenacious and innovative journalist with a passion for local media.

"The Burns Fellowship started me on my career trajectory that led me to becoming the leader I am today."

Alumni Resources

Investing in the Future of Journalism and the Transatlantic Relationship

As **2008 Burns alumnus Mike Giglio** once wrote, the Burns Fellowship “patches together some rungs on the overseas journalist ladder, which has been hacked to pieces by the crappy state of things.”

The media industry has been through a sea change in the past decade. Journalists are expected to do vastly more with fewer resources. The Burns Fellowship strives to fill in those gaps to provide journalists with professional development opportunities both during and after their fellowships.

During the program, fellows have the opportunity to build their foreign reporting expertise, expand their sources, and broaden their perspectives. Once they return home, Burns provides networking opportunities to help boost their careers, speaking events to keep them engaged on global topics, and research and reporting trips to fund major overseas media projects.

The Holbrooke Research Grants, named in honor of diplomat Richard Holbrooke, offer stipends for Burns alumni to conduct foreign reporting trips on a topic of interest to the transatlantic community. One recent Holbrooke winner is **Amanda Peacher (Burns 2013)**, currently a senior acquisitions editor at Marketplace. Amanda traveled to Austria in 2021 to report on European climate change action, the economic impact of COVID-19, and solutions to social and environmental challenges that could serve as examples for the United States. Her radio stories aired on The World and Marketplace on syndicated programs that were broadcast to millions of public radio listeners nationally.

Another **Holbrooke grantee, Sadiya Ansari**, was selected for the Fellowship in 2020, but when the program was postponed due to the pandemic, she opted for a Holbrooke Grant instead. She traveled around Germany to report in-depth on how the country has managed to

integrate more than one million refugees who arrived in 2015. She wanted to examine what lessons could be learned for other countries from this mass, unplanned migration.

As soon as it was safe to do so, the fellowship resumed hosting alumni dinners, providing a venue for alumni to reconnect, network and hear from prestigious speakers. Recent keynote speakers include NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg; Friedrich Merz, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union; Dr. Rajiv Shah, president of the Rockefeller Foundation; and journalist and author Bob Woodward.

As Zoom meetings exploded during the pandemic, the Burns Fellowship realized it could also take advantage of this technology to provide more intimate alumni gatherings by hosting class reunions for their 20th and 30th anniversaries. The reunions have been a great success and have allowed alumni to catch up on each other’s careers many years after their transformative Burns experiences.

During the pandemic, the program also hosted a few webinars on topics of interest for alumni, including on Canada’s role in the world and media reforms related to social justice issues.

To encourage all alumni to continue producing well researched, high caliber stories, the fellowship awards journalism prizes to the best articles or broadcast stories produced that year. The Arthur F. Burns Awards are presented to alumni for an outstanding journalistic contribution, and the George F. Kennan Commentary Award is presented to any journalist for a remarkable commentary related to the transatlantic relationship or the United States in a German publication.

The Burns Fellowship helps support alumni throughout their careers so they can continue to rise in the media field and provide enlightening and critical news to their audiences.



Photo Captions: 1: Burns Fellowship president Frank Freiling at German Embassy reception in 2021; 2: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at Berlin Alumni Dinner in 2021; 3: Deputy Chief of Mission Axel Dittmann with Karl Doemens (Burns 1990); 4: German Ambassador Emily Haber at 2021 reception; 5: July 2021 German Embassy reception; 6: Burns Award winners Jonas Schreijäg and Ibrahim Naber (both Burns 2021) with Kennan Award winner Andrian Kreye at June 2022 Berlin Dinner; 7: Friedrich Merz, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, at the Berlin Alumni Dinner in June 2022; 8: Michelle Hackman (Burns 2018), Gabriel Rubin (Burns 2018), Chris Cameron (Burns 2022), and Cat Zakrzewski (Burns 2017) at July 2022 reception; 9: Asahi Pompey of Goldman Sachs at 2022 New York Dinner; 10: Burns chairman Marcus Brauchli and Bob Woodward at 2023 New York Dinner; 11: July 2022 German Embassy reception; 12: May 2022 New York Dinner; 13: ICFJ president Sharon Moshavi at May 2022 New York Dinner; 14: Congressman Sean Maloney with 2022 fellows in Washington; 15: Emma Hurt (Burns 2021) at 2023 New York Dinner.



Host Organizations

The following media organizations hosted Burns Fellows from the 2021 and 2022 classes:

UNITED STATES & CANADA

6AM City—Portland, OR
The Austin Chronicle—Austin, TX
Bloomberg—New York, NY
The City—New York, NY
The Globe and Mail—Toronto, ON and Vancouver, BC
The Hill—Washington, DC
The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists—Washington, DC
NBC—New York, NY
The New York Times—Washington, DC
NPR—Washington, DC
The Oregonian—Portland, OR
ProPublica—New York, NY
The Seattle Times—Seattle, WA
The Tennessean—Nashville, TN
The Verge—San Francisco, CA and New York, NY
WAFB—Baton Rouge, LA
The Wall Street Journal—New York, NY
The Washington Post—Washington, DC



Christian Ruffus (Burns 2022), hosted by NBC in NY.



Martin Hogger (Burns 2021), hosted by The Globe and Mail, at Niagara Falls.

GERMANY

Augsburg Allgemeine—Augsburg
Bayerischer Rundfunk—Munich
Berliner Zeitung—Berlin
Handelsblatt—Düsseldorf
Media Pioneer—Berlin
RND—Berlin
Süddeutsche Zeitung—Berlin and Munich
taz, die tageszeitung—Berlin
Der Tagesspiegel—Berlin
Thomson Reuters—Berlin
The Wall Street Journal—Berlin
WELT—Berlin
WELT Audio/Podcast—Berlin



Kenny Sharpe (Burns 2022), above, hosted by Thomson Reuters, and **Reinhard Meissl** (Burns 2021), right, hosted by WAFB in Baton Rouge.



Marieke Walsh in Berlin.

Berliner Zeitung, Berlin

“When you walked through the editorial office in the evening, there was still a light on late at one desk: **Marieke Walsh’s**. She wanted to quickly finish a story before interviewing a victim of the Munich attack in 1972 the next day and flying to London the day after to report on the queen’s funeral. From there she wrote a story for the home editorial office and of course one for us, including photos. To this day, when I ask colleagues about Marieke Walsh, they say: Oh! That was the Burns Fellow who always had political discussions with us in the morning and worked until late in the evening to finalize her copy.”
Sören Kittel, Head of Local News

“The opportunities that the fellowship created for me were beyond anything I could have hoped for and the *Berliner Zeitung* was a great newsroom to be placed in. The team there was incredibly friendly and supportive and went out of their way to show me the ropes and point me in the right direction for sources and stories. Through the fellowship I got the chance to do more feature writing and investigative work and had a true taste of life as a foreign correspondent (navigating language and cultural differences and juggling midnight edits with the desk back home). I can’t recommend the fellowship enough to any journalist hoping to build their skill set and test out other styles of reporting.”

Marieke Walsh (Burns 2022)

Senior Political Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*, Ottawa
Hosted by: *Berliner Zeitung*, Berlin

PDXToday, Portland

“Meeting **Eva** and adopting her as an honorary member of our team was such a special experience and a highlight of the work year. She came to us to learn about our brand and company culture, but we reaped an equal measure of benefits in the process—from learning about her life and work in Germany (and getting many incredible travel tips) to the simple gift of acknowledging the common ties that connect us across continents. The sense of connection fostered by the Arthur F. Burns Fellowship Program was invaluable.”

Ben McBee and Cambrie Juarez, City Editors

“I was very impressed with the openness and innovation-driven mindset at 6AM City. They have a clear vision for their hyperlocal newsletters and what purpose they should serve as a journalistic product—I learned a lot that I brought back to my home media company, the BR/ARD. The staff—especially the Portland team—was exceptionally welcoming and really made me feel like a team member from the start.”

Eva Limmer (Burns 2022)

Reporter, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Munich
Hosted by: 6AM City/PDXToday, Portland, OR



Eva Limmer, left, with her host editors Ben McBee and Cambrie Juarez in Portland.

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Germany



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2021 Burns Fellows at the German ambassador's residence in Washington, DC.

ICFJ — IJP

Arthur F. Burns Fellowship Program

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