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Companions

Ohio University

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**15 Years of Academic Exchange and
Transatlantic Dialogue**

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Preface of the Rektor of the University of Leipzig,

Prof. Dr. jur. Franz Häuser



Prof. Dr. jur. Franz Häuser,
Rektor of the University of Leipzig

In the view of the University of Leipzig, the partnership with Ohio University has particularly prominent standing. The scope, areas and forms of the exchange have proven to be more differentiated – and therefore also more long-term – than with any other of our partner universities outside of Germany. Over the last 15 years, both universities have traveled – together – a good distance of the path leading two previously more regionally oriented universities to the global academic arena.

Additionally, the partnership of these two universities mirrors and makes visible the transatlantic academic relationships of the past 100 years. Beginning in a time of the European “exporting” of ideas concerning universities as well as of instructors in the 19th Century, when German models for these were highly valued among American academics and students and American faculty with doctorates from Leipzig were teaching at the still-young university in Athens. Continuing in the 1990s, which saw the reorientation of the University of Leipzig to western educational systems, when after German reunification American university professors supported the restructuring of the Eastern German university with advice and continuing education. Up until today’s current cooperation between equals, resulting in an equally fruitful exchange stimulating education and research on both sides.

The task for the next few years is to coordinate the conceptions for the further development of each partner to ensure mutual benefit.

Preface of the President of Ohio University,

Prof. Dr. Roderick J. McDavis

The 15th anniversary of Ohio University's cooperation with the University of Leipzig allows me the opportunity to express my enormous gratitude to all of the people involved in this partnership. Those individuals have made this one of our most valuable and active collaborations.

Our students and faculty, who have traveled to Leipzig over the years, have benefited enormously. Their courses and research have been enriched, their lives have changed. The students and faculty who come to Athens from the University of Leipzig bring us their unique perspective, and help offer a diversity of viewpoint that is fundamental to higher education.

We look forward to many years of working together toward reaching common educational goals, be they in the classroom or in the research laboratory. The history of this program is rich and has been mutually beneficial to all.



Prof. Dr. Roderick McDavis,
President of Ohio University

The Ohio – Leipzig Relationship



Ohio University is a public university with about 28,500 students and located in the small town of Athens in Southeast Ohio. As the first university in the American Midwest, Ohio University, founded in 1804, is the oldest university in Ohio.

The University of Leipzig (UL) and Ohio University (OU) in Athens have been working together since 1992. There are lively connections in research and teaching, in the exchange of students and interns, and also in the realm of administration. A number of faculties and university facilities participate in the partnership. To date, more than 500 students have taken advantage of the possibility to study for an extended period of time at the partner university. Although the University of Leipzig has cooperation agreements with over 40 non-european universities, Ohio University is one of the most important partners.



In 2009 the University of Leipzig is celebrating its 600th Anniversary. It is the second-oldest university in Germany and has approximately 30,000 students.

Between the University of Leipzig and Ohio University, an effective and lasting relationship has been successfully built between two universities both rich in tradition and ambitions, the one rooted in the middle of Europe and the other in the American Midwest. The now 15-year-old academic relationship is not only an integral component of the academic exchange but also impressive evidence of the transfer of knowledge between the two continents as well as of successful intercultural understanding.

Historic roots

The academic relationship between the two universities can be traced back to the last third of the 19th Century. At this time, the University of Leipzig already enjoys considerable international attention, which is bound up with the work of such prestigious professors as the philosopher and physicist Theodor Fechner, the chemist Hermann Kolbe or the physiologist Carl Ludwig. The Institute for Experimental Psychology, founded by Wilhelm Wundt in 1879, is a powerful attraction for researchers and students from around the world. The group of young, engaged enthusiasts coming to Wundt and the University of Leipzig in the 1880s includes the two Americans John Pancoast Gordy and James E. Le Rossignol, both of whom write their dissertation under Wundt. Gordy is awarded his doctorate by the University of Leipzig in 1884, followed by Le Rossignol in 1894. Both academics return to the United States and take up teaching assignments at the still quite young Ohio University. Starting in 1886, John P. Gordy, as a professor of psychology and pedagogy, is responsible for teacher education. In 1890, he is appointed Professor of Psychology and Pedagogy. Gordy Hall in Athens is his namesake and the home of the Departments of Linguistics and Modern Languages. Gordy's doctorate as well as the comments and evaluations of his professors from Leipzig have been hung in the Gordy Hall foyer to recall the historical connection to his Alma Mater.



View at the university building Augusteum and Pauliner University Church in 1890

In the middle of the 19th Century, Leipzig is an important center of culture and trade, with numerous publishing- and printing houses. The university develops into an academic place of learning with a global reputation.

The Institute for Experimental Psychology was founded by Wilhelm Wundt in 1879, originally as a private institute. In 1883 it became an official part of the university and received a fixed budget. Wundt's lectures, seminars and laboratory experiments drew participants from around the world. Leipzig became the center of modern psychology.

New beginnings in the 1990s

At the beginning of the 1990s, shortly after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the reunification of Germany, American universities begin to make connections with prestigious universities located in former East Germany. To achieve this, they take advantage of an initiative begun by the United States Information Agency (USIA), which among other aims intends to accompany reconstruction and transformation processes at Eastern German universities and to build new structures, particularly in the areas of liberal arts and social sciences, which have the strongest connections to the old system and its ideology.

Ohio University is one of the first American universities to take advantage of this opportunity. In June of 1991, Ohio University Provost James J. Bruning, accompanied by American Embassy employees, travels to Eastern Germany to visit several universities. At the University of Leipzig, he meets Prorektor Günther Wartenberg (†), who briefs him about the academic facilities as well as the on-going restructuring- and renewing processes at the university. Regarding the USIA support program, Wartenberg suggests a program of cooperation with the former Journalism Department and the Department of History.

The intensity of the changes and the redesigning of the university structures begun in Leipzig impress the guest. A summary of his visit: Leipzig shows itself to be the most promising partner for a future cooperative relationship. The academic potential in many different areas would have numerous points of synergy for cooperation. Back in Athens, Bruning contacts representatives of Ohio University's School of Journalism and Department of History and helps the application to the USIA along its way.



Former university's main building and university tower at Augustusplatz

On the way to a partnership

The first personal meetings of representatives from these respective academic areas in Leipzig and Athens take place in July 1992. Professor Ralph Izard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, and Professor John Lewis Gaddis, Director of the Contemporary History Institute (CHI) visit the University of Leipzig. During conversations with their colleagues at the Institute for Communication and Media Studies (KMW) and at the Department of History, they elicit opportunities for a wide-ranging program of cooperation including reciprocal exchanges as well as support for the continuing reconceiving – and in some cases completely new designing – of several different academic areas.

The financial means for the realization of the program are made available by the American side: USIA and the Freedom Forum, a foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit, support the universities with \$125,000 and \$80,000, respectively. The journalism professor Robert K. Stewart takes on the coordination of the project and in December 1992 presents the support structures in Leipzig. Together with the German partners, he discusses the process of effectively designing the mutual exchange and research dialogue.

In the following years there are numerous joint teaching- and research events accompanied by active student- and academic exchanges. In 1993 and 1994, interdisciplinary summer schools are held in Athens and Leipzig. Many members of both universities use these for further education and inspiration. Professors, instructors and students on both sides come together to share. Guest lectures are offered by academics from the respective partner university, students from Leipzig complete an academic year abroad at Ohio University, and other academic areas besides journalism and history join the cooperation in ever stronger numbers.



Participants of the first CHI Summer School in Athens 1993

The hoped-for push effect of the support program can be seen in the quickly established stable connections between various institutions as well as in the great interest shown in the expanding of contacts. In June 1994 this development results in a formalized cooperation agreement signed by the representatives of both universities – President Charles Ping and the University of Leipzig Rektor Cornelius Weiss. The contract regulates academic cooperation as well as the exchange of researchers and students.

This is the basis allowing students from Leipzig and Athens to complete a part of their studies at the respective partner university. The students from Leipzig are given tuition waivers for their time in the USA, and in general OU students finance their stay in Germany through scholarships.

Instructors from both universities regularly teach at the respective partner institution. Stimulated by the intense exchange in the liberal arts and social sciences in the middle of the 1990s, natural sciences begin to participate more and more in joint research projects as well as in other kinds of joint projects.

The strong connection between the two universities is honored and once again confirmed with the ceremonial extension of the cooperation contract in March 1999. During the visit by the President of Ohio University, Robert Glidden, to his equivalent in Leipzig, Rektor Volker Bigl (†), the two representatives sign the document.



Rektor Volker Bigl, Provost Sharon Brehm and President Robert Glidden (from left to right) signing the Memorandum of Understanding

At the same time, the partners agree to a Memorandum of Understanding, which proposes the creation of a special study program at the University of Leipzig to be known as the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC). The idea concerning such an institution, which would offer Ohio University students the chance to collect their first study abroad experiences at a European university, had already been raised during the visit of a delegation from Leipzig to the partner university in Ohio in Fall 1998.

After an intensive phase of preparation, the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) is inaugurated in April 2000. Thus begins the 10-week OLEC Spring Course that has taken place every year since. The courses, held in English, give American students in their second and third years of study a look at other learning and experiential environments. Within interdisciplinary courses in the areas of history, politics, communication and media studies and other science areas such as anthropology, geography or biology, historical, political and cultural developments in modern Europe are taught in a hands-on way. Starting in summer 2002, the five-week OLEC Summer School is held in the months of June and July, offering a similarly structured – though more concentrated – course of study. What differentiates OLEC from other Ohio University programs in other countries is that the OLEC courses are also designed by University of Leipzig instructors. More than 200 students from Ohio have participated in this program to date.

Through the interdisciplinary study model the cooperation between the two universities has an additional surplus other foreign and German students could benefit from in the future. The University of Leipzig is meeting the demands of internationalization by spurring on an expansion of this study program.

This particular development of the mutual exchange as well as the continuing expansion of the relationships between both universities in the 1990s can be traced to the array of activities of numerous university employees in both Leipzig and Athens but is also partially due to the personal engagement of their two highest representatives. Rektor Volker Bigl and President Robert Glidden support the progress of the relationships with great interest and energy during their respective times in office. In recognition of his academic achievements as well as of his active support of the university partnership, Bigl is ceremoniously granted an honorary doctorate from Ohio University in Athens in October 2001.



Learning together in Leipzig: OLEC Spring Course 2007



Ceremony granting Rektor Volker Bigl an honorary doctorate on 25 October 2001.

„Rektor Bigl has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center and has provided invaluable assistance to Ohio University faculty and staff in the establishment of that program.“
(Excerpt from the program)



Rektor Franz Häuser and President Robert Glidden signing the partnership agreement in Athens

The continuation of the friendly contacts between the universities is also a result of the May 2003 election of the jurist and professor Franz Häuser to the position of Rektor of the University of Leipzig. Together with his predecessor, Häuser travels to Athens in May 2004 to participate in the celebrations surrounding the 200th Anniversary of Ohio University. As a part of this trip, the partnership agreement is extended by an additional three years. Häuser supports the on-going exchange within the framework of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) and plays an important role in the efforts made to extend and improve further the existing relationships.

Up until now, more than 500 students of these two universities have been involved in the exchange. Approximately 100 University of Leipzig students have taken advantage of the possibility provided by the partnership agreement, professional internships and projects such as ISAP (International Study and Training Partnerships) to get to know the American university and research system. In return, more than 400 Ohio University students have visited or studied at the University of Leipzig – most of them have come through the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) or the Global Competitiveness Program (GCP) run by the Faculty of Economics and Management.

The wide variety of connections between Ohio University and the University of Leipzig is less represented by these numbers, however, and might be better understood through the individual meetings, alternating impulses, academic discussions and shared experiential environments of the participants.

At the 15th anniversary of the partnership, both universities are international locations for academics and research. The existing cooperation contract is renewed at a celebratory event in December 2007.

First steps in the areas of Media and History

The mutual interest in a wide-ranging cooperation already becomes clear during the visit of John Lewis Gaddis, Director of the Contemporary History Institute (CHI), and Ralph Lizard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, to the University of Leipzig in July 1992. In September of the same year, two University of Leipzig students – one in journalism, the other in history – begin two-year MA programs at Ohio University, supported by scholarships from the American organization Freedom Forum. Concrete agreements on the joint events within the framework of the project support are made by Robert K. Stewart from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Karl Reimers, the founding Dean of the Institute of Communication and Media Studies (KMW), and the Leipzig media instructor Gerhard Piskol.

In the summer of 1993, Robert K. Stewart becomes the first Ohio University instructor to teach at the University of Leipzig. At the Institute of KMW he holds an English-language lecture class on mass media in the USA. He also offers a seminar together with Gerhard Piskol. Numerous colleagues from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism visit the University of Leipzig around this time to hold guest lectures or academic presentations as part of the course events. Professors such as Anne Cooper-Chen, Hugh Culbertson, Dru Evarts, Marilyn Greenwald, Mel Helitzer, Tom Hodges and Patrick Washburn give Leipzig students insight into the American media system as well as into other teaching methods and research approaches.

The starting signal for a lively exchange between the universities is thus given as the first return visit takes place soon after. In the summer of 1993 the first group from the University of Leipzig travels to Athens. As part of a four-week Summer School held by the Contemporary History



Karl Reimers and Robert K. Stewart in Leipzig. Reimers agrees to plans for cooperation, saying „anything is fine“

Institute (CHI), 15 students and academics study contemporary topics. They focus on a social historical comparison of the USA and the Soviet Union, international political relationships during the Cold War as well as on the analysis of multicultural societies. The course directors are the history professors Chester Pach and Steven M. Miner. For both historians as well as for the guests from Leipzig, the Summer School offers a welcome opportunity to engage in stimulating exchange and to gain insight into a special period of experienced history. Outside of the classrooms there are also numerous meetings and conversations taking place through which the particular interest in the respective other perspective becomes clear. To learn more about the country, participants also take trips to Columbus, Cincinnati and Washington D.C.

In the spring of 1994 Chester Pach and Steven M. Miner travel with some CHI colleagues to the University of Leipzig to hold guest lectures and working meetings with representatives of the UL Department of History. Their contact person in Leipzig is Wolfgang Höpken, Professor of Eastern- and Southern European History. In July of the same year he offers a Leipzig Summer School entitled *How European is Europe?* for students from Ohio University. The week-long course program serves as an introduction to European history.

In July and August of the same year there is a second Summer School held in Athens for students and teachers of the University of Leipzig; this program builds upon the subject matter covered in the earlier course, identifying various approaches to contemporary developments. Chester Pach and his colleague Katherine Jellison direct the academic program. The teaching is dedicated to the end of the Cold War, international relations and also social and political problems in Europe and the US. The opportunity to acquire a concentrated body of knowledge as well as to participate in the mutual exchange of experiences between the hosts and participants is perceived to be extraordinarily enriching.



CHI Summer School Certificate 1994

The wish for a lasting and effective basis for cooperation leads to the signing of the contract of academic cooperation between the two universities in June 1994. The vivid exchange and successful cooperation of the participating academics and students from the two schools – both of which are based upon this contract – not only move other institutes to make contact in the following years but also confirm the mutual expectation of a fruitful and solid connection between Leipzig and Athens.



Participants of the CHI Summer School 1993 with Chester Pach (2nd row, right most) and Steven M. Miner (4th row, left most)

Institute of Communication and Media Studies (UL) – E.W. Scripps School of Journalism (OU)

A firm connection in practice: Journalists and radio editors



Leipzig journalism student Gabriele Mäurer (right) in the foyer of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism

Immediately after the first contacts with Ohio University representatives, a Leipzig journalism student begins a masters degree at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism in the Fall of 1992. Her stay is financed through a scholarship awarded by the Freedom Forum foundation as well as by an assistantship at Alden Library in Athens.

Like a lone pioneer, in the Summer Semester of 1993 journalism professor Robert K. Stewart teaches a course on mass media in the USA at the Institute of Media and Communication Studies; this course is followed by a seminar on the American news channel CNN's coverage of Eastern Germany after 1989/1990, a course taught together with his Leipzig colleague Gerhard Piskol. The classes, taught in English, are an entirely new experience for the students, who follow it with vivid interest and ever-increasing numbers of participants. Stewart does not just instruct Leipzig students but also takes part in department meetings and works as an advisor during the designing of new structures such as the teaching studios of the university radio station mephisto 97.6.

In the following Winter Semester 1993/1994, his colleague Patricia Westfall, a professor at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, gives an introductory class on design and layout. The students immediately use and practically apply what they are learning for the design of the program booklet of the Leipzig documentary film festival. Her colleague Anne Cooper-Chen also teaches two class hours, in the area of design as well as within the framework of a seminar covering newspaper editing and production in the USA.

In the spring of 1994 the media researcher Rüdiger Steinmetz visits the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism to elicit new ideas on further possibilities for cooperation. One important contact partner and mediator during this visit is Robert K. Stewart, who also opens channels to other departments and increasingly acts as a coordinator for the forking relationships.

In the middle of the 1990s, the exchange becomes more intense. Active cooperation develops particularly between the radio stations mephisto 97.6 at the University of Leipzig and the student employees of the public broadcast station WOUB Radio and Television at Ohio University. The experience of the American partners is welcome assistance during the designing phase of the university radio station in 1994/1995. Robert K. Stewart and a student representative from All-Campus Radio Network (ACRN) participate in the preparations for the founding with numerous suggestions and ideas. At the same time, Stewart and his colleague Karin Sandell, a professor at the Ohio University College of Communication also in Leipzig at this time, offer blocked seminars and guest lectures during their two-week stay at the Institute of KMW.

On 30 May 1995 mephisto 97.6 goes on-air for the first time. Rüdiger Steinmetz, founding member and long-time operational program director of the university radio station, continues to promote the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience between students in Athens and Leipzig. Since the founding of the radio teaching studio he has been in charge of organizing and leading excursions and joint workshops. Supported by the RIAS Berlin Commission, the first mephisto 97.6 editors visit their partners' radio station in Athens in September 1995. In the years following this visit, the students often come together to work on joint projects. The reciprocal visits to the respective partners' teaching studio, which take place nearly every year, are also used for excursions to important media locations and institutions in the host country.



Robert K. Stewart during a tour through the University of Leipzig



Karin Sandell with Leipzig colleagues and students



Student editors of the Leipzig university radio mephisto 97.6 in Athens

Further contacts arise in the area of communications management and public relations – in October 1995 the Leipzig professor Günter Bentele travels to hold a guest lecture at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. In addition to numerous meetings with colleagues and representatives of Ohio University, it also results in Bentele's participation in an anthology edited by Hugh M. Culbertson called *International Public Relations*, which is published in the following year.

Also in 1995, Michael Haller, Professor of Journalism at the University of Leipzig, visits his Athens partners. During this visit he presents the concept of Leipzig journalism and holds talks resulting in agreements creating professional internship spots for Leipzig journalism students in the local television station located on campus, whereupon OU Professors Ralph Izard and Robert K. Stewart's visit in December of the same year serves the purpose, among others, of advising students interested in completing the practical part of their studies in Athens.

In Summer Semester 1996, Larry Levin, the American journalist and long-time European correspondent, imparts practical knowledge and career experience while working at the Institute of KMW, teaching a seminar on environmental television. The guest instructor's commitment strengthens the Leipzig journalism students' interest in the methods of teaching and imparting of practical knowledge at the partner university OU. Following Levin's seminar, a Leipzig journalism student completes a five-week internship in the teaching studios at the local broadcast station WOUB Radio and TV in Athens. Since then, more and more students from the University of Leipzig have been using this possibility to practice their journalistic skills in a practical way as well as to get to know other forms of media work.

In the Fall of 1996, two students from the Institute of KMW begin the first professional internships at WOUB Radio and TV. They are embedded into all of the different working areas, from anchoring to sound. In comparison to their

American colleagues, for whom practical work and studies run parallel, these two future journalists are busy in the studios all day long. Every year, two professional interns come from Leipzig journalism to finish this part of their training in Athens.

That the exchange does not only work in one direction is proven in the Winter Semester of 1996/1997 by a student from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. He studies like a normal student at the Institute of KMW but also participates actively in the editorial work at mephisto 97.6. During his stay in Leipzig, a group of OU journalism students led by Ralph Izard visit the university in December 1996. The guests become acquainted with how the university functions as well as with the structure of the Institute of KMW. Student workers at the university radio station mephisto 97.6 show them the editorial areas and explain the work processes and program planning. The American students are then granted a look at the world of professional journalism when they visit MDR (a public broadcasting station in Leipzig and Halle serving Central Germany) and Deutschlandfunk in Berlin (a public station broadcasting nationwide).

The first instructor from the Leipzig Institute of KMW with a lengthy teaching job at Ohio University is Tilo Prase (†). In Fall Quarter 1997 he offers a seminar on political cartoons in former East Germany through the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. He team teaches the class with Robert K. Stewart.

During a short visit in September 1997, Bernhard Debatin, University Professor of Theory and Sociology of Public Communications and Media Ethics, introduces his ideas for a cooperative project with the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. The plans for a joint seminar design, for which the state-of-the-art video technology should be used, are developed in December of the same year at a further meeting with Robert K. Stewart in Leipzig. In the following months, students in Leipzig and Athens experiment with multimedia

Since 2000 the Sparkasse Leipzig Media Foundation has annually awarded two scholarships to journalism students wishing to spend their professional internship year at Ohio University.



OU students visiting the studio of mephisto 97.6

possibilities for joint, electronically mediated lessons in the courses Collaborative Writing and Telelearning using the Internet. The first on-line lecture is held in May 1998 using a video conference system: Debatin's lecture on *Myths and Metaphors of the Internet* is transmitted to Stewart's course *Journalism on the Web*.

Following all-encompassing preparations, a one-hour video conference is held in June 1998 with the highest representatives of the two partner universities. American and German students on both sides take part in the first, multimedia-based meeting of President Robert Glidden and Rektor Volker Bigl. Bigl uses the opportunity to invite his counterpart to personally visit the University of Leipzig.

Having had her first teaching experience in Leipzig at the beginning of the 1990s, Anne Cooper-Chen, Director of the Institute for International Journalism at Ohio University, teaches once again at the Institute of KMW in Summer Semester 1998. She offers seminars on gender roles and the media, foreign reporting, and the power of pictures.

Around the same time, Günter Bentele is active at Ohio University as a Visiting Professor during his semester spent on a research sabbatical. He takes part in courses, holds lectures on the topic of communication management in Germany, and also leads a discussion with members of the student organization Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA). The result of this research visit is the loose-leaf book *Public Relations in Deutschland* (1998).

In September 1999 Gerhard Piskol and Bernhard Debatin make a working trip to Athens. There, they offer a series of guest lectures on media politics and policy as well as on media ethics. In addition, Debatin takes counsel with representatives of the College of Communication and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism on how the existing cooperation can be intensified.



Gerhard Piskol, Ine Dippmann and Bernhard Debatin (from left to right) during a meetings in Athens

Together with the Amerika-Haus Leipzig, the Institute of KMW holds an international conference in November 1999 on the topic *The Privacy of Public Persons in the Media*. The event takes place within the context of the U.S. presidential elections and the impeachment case against Bill Clinton.

As a part of the course program of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC), founded in 2000, various instructors from KMW are engaged in the designing of the courses to be offered to the students of the partner university. In consultation with their American colleagues, Gerhard Piskol, Hans-Jörg Stiehler, Rüdiger Steinmetz, Michael Haller, Günter Bentele and Bernhard Debatin all teach individual course units on the topic *Media in Europe*. The study program, which had been tested as a pilot project in the spring, is held a second time in fall of the same year with similar content and direction. In the following years, too, media-specific courses are time and again a component of the Spring- and Summer Courses.

During Winter Semester 2000/2001 Bernhard Debatin teaches four seminars as a Visiting Professor at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism: Media Ethics, Online Journalism, Communication Theory and International Media.

In December 2000 and again in 2001, Robert K. Stewart leads two-week excursions intended to acquaint journalism students from Ohio University with the German media landscape. During its stay at the University of Leipzig, the group takes part in special courses set up by KMW and visits the editors at mephisto 97.6 to get to know the broadcasting operation on location. Excursions to the broadcasting centers of MDR in Leipzig and Halle as well as to the Film and Television Academy Konrad Wolf in Potsdam-Babelsberg give insight into the work and training in different media-related careers.



Bernhard Debatin gives a presentation at the conference on Privacy of Public Persons in the Media



KMW students with Robert K. Stewart and Rüdiger Steinmetz (left and right most) in front of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism

In the following year, Leipzig students make a return visit to the teaching studios of WOUB Radio and TV. Led by Rüdiger Steinmetz and student employees of the local station in Athens, the KMW students work for one week on joint projects before they leave Athens to begin the second part of their trip – the visiting of various broadcast installations in the U.S. Similarly structured student trips also take place in 2004 and 2006.

The active cooperation between the two partner universities also promotes personal developments. In the fall of 2001 Bernhard Debatin is given an Ohio University professorship and has since been active at E.W. Scripps School of Journalism as Professor for Multimedia Policy.

As program director of the first Summer School offered by the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC), he accompanies a group of 19 Ohio University students to Leipzig in the summer of 2002. During the five-week study program the participants are occupied with interdisciplinary courses covering Europe-specific topics. In Debatin's course *European Media*, the American students get an overview of print-, broadcast- and on-line media in the German-European context as well as the American one for purposes of comparison. Excursions to Munich, to the broadcasting center of a large private station and to the Bavaria Film Studios as well as on-site meetings at the Leipzig city newspaper (LVZ), MDR and the university radio station mephisto 97.6 communicate various forms of journalistic work in a hands-on way. The course offerings are complemented by an intensive German course as well as excursions based around topics specific to Germany.



OLEC Summer School students 2002 between the student club Moritzbastei and the University Tower

Department of History (UL) – Contemporary History Institute (OU)

Joint histories: Contemporary historians coming together

When the historian John L. Gaddis and Ralph Izard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, come to Leipzig in July 1992, the transformation process at the University of Leipzig is still underway. During conversations with Rektor Cornelius Weiss, Prorektor Günter Wartenberg and representatives of the UL Department of History it becomes nonetheless clear that cooperation would be very welcome on both sides.

The first history student from the University of Leipzig, Wilfred Poppe, is already at OU by September 1992 to begin a two-year Masters program. His studies at OU are supported by an American scholarship.

With the support of the United States Information Agency (USIA), the Contemporary History Institute (CHI) offers its first Summer School for students and instructors from the University of Leipzig in August 1993. The program is drafted by history professor Chester Pach. The seminars focus on contemporary European history, international relations during the Cold War and modern socialism. The course directors are Chester Pach and his colleague Steven M. Miner. The meetings with the participants from Leipzig in- and outside of class have remained memorable for the two professors. In numerous seminar discussions and private conversations, historical experiences and images of society are confronted, exchanged and explained.



CHI Summer Group 1993 in Athens

„The Summer School 1993 was one of the best classes I ever taught. Not only for teaching but also for oral history, in learning about historical events before the collapse of East Germany and the Eastern Bloc.“(Chester Pach, historian at the CHI)

Soon after, students from the UL Department of History also come into contact with American historical concepts and research approaches. In Summer Semester 1994 Chester Pach and Steven M. Miner are guests at the University of Leipzig. Miner holds a lecture on historical developments in the USSR between the Second World War and the Cold War.

A Leipzig summer school entitled *How European is Europe?* is held in Summer 1994 for students from Ohio University. Wolfgang Höpken, Professor of Eastern- and Southern European History, organizes the one-week program, which is intended to acquaint the participants with structural-historical questions on European history as well as with the internal diversity of European historical regions.

In the mid-1990s, several students from the UL Department of History begin taking advantage of the possibility given by the partnership agreement to spend part of their studies at Ohio University. One basic motivating factor is the wish to internalize other perspectives and to unlock new aspects of historical events. In September 1995 Günther Heydemann, Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, is invited to Athens to hold a guest lecture. As part of a CHI seminar taught by John L. Gaddis he speaks about *The British perspective on the Soviet occupation policy from 1945-1949*.

In December 1996, Chester Pach and other high-ranking Ohio University representatives travel to Leipzig. The delegation meets with Rektor Cornelius Weiss, among others. At an American Studies class, Pach gives a lecture on the pop star Madonna. He also holds working meetings with his Leipzig colleagues Heydemann and Höpken at the UL Department of History. During these meetings, they agree to intensify cooperation between CHI and the UL Department of History.

During a research sabbatical semester in the fall of 1997, Günther Heydemann teaches at Ohio University as a CHI Visiting Professor, offering a course on social history in the Third Reich.

Wolfgang Höpken also travels to Ohio University to take on an extended teaching stint. In Spring Quarter 1998 he gives a seminar on the history of the Balkans after 1945 as part of a CHI graduate-level course. The arrangements for this guest professorship had been made during a working visit in the previous year at which Höpken had offered a public university lecture on the topic *War and Memory in Yugoslavia*.

In the spring of 1998 preparations are begun for the planned study program known as the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC), which is intended to lower the hurdle for American students wishing to study abroad. As a representative of the University of Leipzig in Athens, Höpken is involved in the conceptualizing and organizing of the project structures and content. The first course program, *The New Europe*, is created by the joint efforts of work groups at both universities. Among other topics it offers seminars on European history and political aspects of Europe. The courses are designed by university professors and instructors of the UL Department of History and Institute of Political Science. It is officially opened in the presence of OU President Robert Glidden and colleagues such as Chester Pach.

The activities of historians within the framework of the OLEC study program greatly contribute to the continuing exchange between the two universities, for which mutual working visits represent a vital component of this contact. For instance, in September 2000 Günther Heydemann presents a research report at CHI on *Theory and Methodology of the Empirical Comparison of Dictatorships of the Nazi and SED Regimes*. In December 2003 the American professors Steven M. Miner and Norman Goda visit the UL Department of History to hold work discussions and guest lectures. In response to an invitation from Heydemann, Miner takes part in an academic conference on approaches for the comparing of dictatorships in March 2004.



Doing research in Athens: UL history students with Günther Heydemann and his American colleague Michael Grow (first row, center)

"The exchange with colleagues from Athens has lead to very close personal relationships by now." (Günther Heydemann, historian at the University of Leipzig)

The same year Heydemann and a group of students from the UL Department of History begin working on a German-American documentation of the series of events caused by or following 9/11. This project is stimulated by a hotly disputed lecture on the state of German-American relationships in the shadow of the War in Iraq, a lecture held by the Leipzig historian in the spring of 2003 during a visit to CHI. For the project *Consensus, crisis and conflict: US-European Relations before and after the Iraq War 2001-2007* German students in seminars and work groups produce a comprehensive collection of documents and materials related to official statements of the German Federal Government as well as of press commentary harvested from major German daily newspapers. At the same time, students in a course taught by Chester Pach at CHI also examine and analyze sources dealing with the results of 9/11 and the Iraq War. In order to exchange the respective findings, Heydemann and his students travel to Athens in April 2005 to discuss experiences and results in one of Chester Pach's seminars.

The source documentation is further worked on and finished by a Leipzig doctoral student who does research at Ohio University in the Summer Semester of 2007. The agreements for his stay in Athens are reached in the fall of the previous year following a lecture held by Heydemann at CHI as well as during Robert K. Stewart's visit to Leipzig in December 2006. The planned documentation is finalized as a part of the dissertation project advised by Heydemann. In 2008 the results are going to be published jointly together with CHI and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism in English.

Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC)



The Ohio-Leipzig European Center is a very attractive and challenging possibility for Ohio University students to collect their first experiences abroad at a European university while being surrounded by another culture. The study center has existed since 2000 and is jointly organized and supported by Ohio University and the University of Leipzig. It offers students a compact, interdisciplinary program – run in English – that is embedded within events building a European cultural framework. Throughout the program the students also go on numerous day-trips and longer excursions and are supported at the ground-level by tutors.

The specially designed curriculum focusing on European topics is intended to give the students an overview of specific historical, political and cultural processes underway in modern Europe. Some of the courses are taught by Leipzig faculty and instructors hailing from the areas of history, political science, theater science as well as communication and media studies. Ohio University academics accompanying the students as program directors also teach courses in their respective academic areas.

During the entire time of their stay, students take German courses corresponding to their language level; the first few weeks are meant to make their daily life in Germany easier, but above and beyond this goal it is intended to broaden and deepen their language knowledge, serving to make cultural particularities, customs and mentalities more accessible.

Historical background

The idea of establishing a regular Ohio University study abroad program is first mentioned in October 1998, when Rektor Volker Bigl, Anne Koenen, former Dean of the Faculty of Philology, and Svend Poller, the Director of the



OLEC students on excursion: Visit at the Wartburg Castle near Eisenach

International Centre, are on a visit to Athens. The first suggestions concerning the supporting of foreign experiences for OU students are presented by President Robert Glidden, Robert K. Stewart, Mary Jane Kelly, from the Department of Modern Languages, and Connie Perdreau, the Director of the Office of Education Abroad, and afterwards discussed in detail with their guests from Leipzig.



Robert K. Stewart, Peter Gutjahr-Löser, Sharon Brehm, Volker Bigl, Kathy Krendl and Svend Poller (from left to right) during a reception at the university guesthouse Villa Tillmanns in 1998

In the beginning of December of the same year, a delegation from Athens travels to Leipzig for a one-week stay. Accompanied by Robert K. Stewart, who is increasingly recognized as the coordinator of the university partnership, Provost Sharon Brehm and Kathy Krendl, Dean of the College of Communications, hold meetings with Rektor Volker Bigl as well as with members of the Rectorate Council and representatives of individual university institutes. The personal contact to the partners in Leipzig is seen as especially important for the construction of a stable and wide-ranging network of cooperation.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two university leaders in March 1999 underscores the common goal of creating an institutional framework for the Ohio University European study program. In the following months preparatory committees at both universities outline the program's goals and projects. Numerous work meetings are held and working visits made in both directions to coordinate the individual planning stages.

In April 1999 the University of Leipzig calls together a preparatory committee, whose members include Christoph Kähler, Prorektor for Teaching and Studies, Wolfgang Höpken as committee chair, Svend Poller, Professors Günther Heydemann from UL Department of History, Sigrid Meuschel from the Department of Political Science, as well as Günter Bentele and Rüdiger Steinmetz, both of the Institute of Communication and Media Studies.

Their partners in Athens include Connie Perdreau, Robert K. Stewart, Mary Jane Kelley, the Director of the Department

of Modern Languages, and Harold Molineu, the Director of CHI, who as a former Dean can contribute wide-ranging knowledge and experience in the areas of academic opportunities and study abroad programs to the planning of this study program. In Spring and Summer 1999 they visit their partners at the University of Leipzig to hold work meetings as well as formal negotiations with the university leadership.

A university delegation consisting of Prorektor Christoph Kähler, Wolfgang Höpken, Svend Poller and the German instructor Sybille Scholz from interDaF e.V. at the University of Leipzig travel to Ohio University in the beginning of November 1999 to put the finishing touches on the program with the team in Athens as well as to agree to a starting date.

The ceremonial opening of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center takes place in the University of Leipzig's Alter Senatssaal on 15 April 2000. Representatives at the governmental and ministerial level, numerous representatives from both universities, and students from both countries participate in the celebration. The speech of welcome held by Janet E. Garvey, who led the Amerika Haus in Leipzig from 1990 to 1994 and is an important promoter of the partnership between the universities, emphasizes the gain in knowledge for American students; the study program would make it possible to experience the variety within Europe. OU President Robert Glidden adds that here is found the opportunity to learn from the differences in culture and history while sharing a basis of common values.

In Spring 2000 twelve Ohio University students take advantage of the opportunity to spend ten weeks in Leipzig within the framework of the first OLEC Spring Course The New Europe. They participate in seminars on European history, politics, business and media landscapes taught by University of Leipzig instructors and supported by local cultural and educational facilities. As program director the OU professor Timothy Anderson from the Department of Geography advises and teaches the students. His class



Wolfgang Höpken, Sybille Scholz, Christoph Kähler, Robert Glidden and Svend Poller (from left to right) 1999 in Athens



Inauguration of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center in the University of Leipzig's Alter Senatssaal

focuses on the geography of European industrial nations; like all OLEC classes, it is held in English. However, a three-week intensive German language- and orientation class precedes and complements the academic program. Both the intensive as well as the regular German classes are taught by instructors from the Herder Institute's interDaF e.V. organization.

Once during the start-up phase there is also a ten-week course in Winter Semester 2000/2001 – *The Modern Europe*. The program director is the business professor David S. Chappell from the College of Business at Ohio University. Due to the low number of participants, however, it is agreed that in the following year only a Spring Course will be offered.

The program organization is handled by the Office of Education Abroad in Athens, directed by Connie Perdreau, as well as by the University of Leipzig's International Centre in the form of Associate Director Christiane Gräfenhain. She is involved in the building of the administrative program structures on location, follows the annual programs, counsels and supports the work of the involved faculty. Following the expanding of the offered courses in 2002 to include an OLEC Summer School, the preparation and support work greatly increases. Therefore, starting the following year an academic assistant is tasked with the coordination of the activities of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center.

Starting in June 2002, the first five-week OLEC Summer School offers a compressed version of the original program: German classes and interdisciplinary courses centered around European themes. Just like in the longer Spring Courses, the Summer School also combines theory and practice through a number of excursions. During this relatively short stay students thus still receive insight into the multifaceted German cultural landscape as well as into the relations between various European nations. The Summer Schools are blessed with a high level of interest and are a fixed component of the annual OLEC program.



Participants of the OLEC Winter Course 2000 with OU professor David S. Chappell (2nd row left most)

Catherine C. Marshall, first as the Interim Director, has led the Ohio University Office of Education Abroad since 2004. During preparations for the OLEC program in 2005 she and the program director of the next Spring Course, James Petrik from the Department of Philosophy, visit the University of Leipzig in July 2004. Through this visit they not only receive a good look at the university operations through which the young Americans must navigate during the OLEC program but also at the social and cultural environment at the university and in Leipzig itself. Basic knowledge about the situation on the ground is especially important for the preparation of the OLEC participants. To further intensify the orientation meetings already being held in Athens for future OLEC students, the office has for years now employed Leipzig students spending their year abroad in Athens. As graduate assistants they work together with the program director to inform each new OLEC group about the procedure and content of the academic scheduling, give information about how the university works, talk about cultural particularities, and give tips on how to handle daily situations.

The OLEC coordinators at the UL International Centre are in constant contact with their partners on-site as well as with the coordinators in Athens. Working together with the Athens coordinators, they create scheduling- and financial plans, informational material and the excursion program. They are the central contact- and communications center for the support of the students and the connecting point between important areas such as student housing, room- and lesson planning, transportation and technology. As the academic assistant from 2003 to 2005, the American Studies specialist Katja Schmieder organizes the complex course offerings. Since 2006 the doctoral student Susan Baumgartl has been responsible for OLEC coordination. During the course of the program two student tutors from the University of Leipzig support the students at the ground-level.



OLEC Summer School 2006:
OU students on excursion in Berlin



OLEC Team 2007 in Leipzig: Art historian Michael Lingohr with OLEC instructor Stefanie Richter and OLEC coordinator Susan Baumgartl

As accompanying institutions, the OLEC coordinators and employees from both universities have a support group made up of a steering- and advisory committee. The selected members are primarily professors involved in the university partnership through cooperation projects and research interests. The members of the Steering Committee in Athens are Professors Robert K. Stewart, William Condee, Joseph McLaughlin, Bernhard Debatin, Vibert Cambridge, Nikhil Sathe, Jim Mosher and Catherine Marshall as well as the respective program director of the current OLEC program. They meet somewhat regularly but mostly during the preparations and debriefings for the annual OLEC program.

Members of the Leipzig side of this Steering Committee are until 2006, the professors Stefan Troebst, Sigrid Meuschel, Anne Koenen, Anita Steube and Svend Poller, the Director of the International Centre. Due to the extremely varied cooperation between the two universities, an expansion of the group is undertaken in June 2007.

For an overview of the OLEC program from 2000 to 2007, please see the attached documentation.

Faculty of Economics and Management (UL)

With the goal of having a practically oriented and internationally open teaching component, the professors of the Faculty of Economics and Management have been involved in various projects with Ohio University colleagues and students for many years. Helge Löbler, Professor for Management Science, and the OU professor John Keifer, Director of the Center for International Business Education and Development, meet at the end of 1999 to plan an interdisciplinary, project-related course of study called the Master of Business Administration Without Boundaries, which is primarily intended for postgraduates, people from business and qualified leaders. The commercial course, held in English, is planned to take two years and to be shared equally by the partners. However, the realization of the internationally networked course of study is cancelled in Summer 2002.

In the Business Education and Management Training Department, the Leipzig professor Fritz Klauser begins to build contacts to the departments Without Boundaries, Lifelong Learning and Information Technology in Athens. In December 2000 Greg Emery, Director of the Global Learning Community (GLC), visits the Faculty of Economics and Management to take part in the preparations for a cooperation project. There are many promising approaches for joint projects, particularly in the areas of E-learning and New Public Management. In August 2002 Donetta Bantle, Professor at the Center for Technology for Learning at Ohio University, visits the Leipzig business professors. They discuss new developments in E-learning and compare parallel research fields and questions to solidify future cooperation.



Fritz Klauser in conversation with Robert K. Stewart

With his American colleagues John Stinson, Muriel Ballou and Mike Snavely, Klauser organizes two video conferences on learning and teaching with new media, during which various approaches to Problem-Based Learning and Anchored Instruction are introduced. Students from both universities are involved in these activities. Further cooperation is initiated in the area New Public Management & Educational Testing. Under the leadership of Professor Catherine Glascock from the College of Education, students in an Executive MA program in Athens work on European approaches to the topic.

During his stay at Ohio University in August 2004 Fritz Klauser takes part in a blocked event within the framework of the Masters program MBA Without Boundaries. The visit to Athens assists the preparation for a new course of study to be offered at the University of Leipzig, for which Klauser and his colleague Silke Weidner make contact to representatives of the Voinovich Center, the Department of Geography and the Institute for Lifelong Learning. However, the planned international program Master of Science in Urban Management is not realized due to personnel changes.

Seven years of success: The Global Competitiveness Program (GCP)

The Management Science department, in particular the marketing program led by Helge Löbner, has regularly hosted intercultural learning programs in the area of marketing since the year 2000. Every summer 20 Ohio University students travel to the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Leipzig to work with the same number of Leipzig students from the academic area of Management Science/Marketing on the designing of projects with regional companies and organizations. In mixed teams, each consisting of two German and two American students, the participants create real (business-) projects within an eight-day-period, projects that are then set up and supervised by businesses and non-profit organizations from Leipzig and the surrounding area. Until now this extremely hands-on program has seen 175 students from Athens work together with 173 students from Leipzig on a total of 86 projects supported by 67 regional companies and organizations. The varied tasks of the students include:

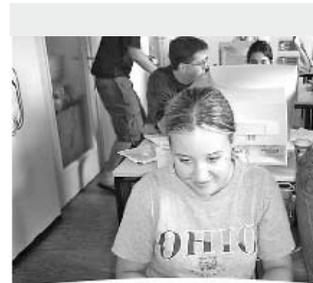
- The creating of communications strategies
- The support of decision-making while choosing the location of a franchise concept
- The running of feasibility tests in the food industry
- The optimizing of on-line advertising activities
- The planning of fundraising campaigns
- The analyzing of company networks

Despite the seemingly short running time of eight days, the students' as well as the project partners' results are of excellent quality. The participating companies have shown their satisfaction with the work of the international team, so much so that some of them have now offered projects to the Global Competitiveness Program for seven years in a row.



Training for every day work life: GCP participants during a presentation

„Leipzig is the best running GCP-Location worldwide“, Faizul Huq, Director of the Center for International Business Education at OU during his visit in Summer 2006.



Individual effort: Computer aided project realisation



Meeting on strategic planning

This cooperation is rewarding for the students from Athens and Leipzig in two different ways; in this program, learning does not just mean the acquiring of theoretical knowledge but also to implement this knowledge in a practical way. Acquired knowledge is connected to individual acting during the concrete project work and is thus better learned for the long-term. This kind of so-called constructivist learning is a basic model for the entire marketing specialization. In addition to the area-specific increase in knowledge, the joint work promotes intercultural and personal competence. For instance, language barriers must be overcome, differing ideas of teamwork must be matched, and specific expectations and demands must likewise be connected to a business-practical – yet still university – project.

For an overview of the GCP program from 2000 to 2007, please see the attached documentation.

Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy (UL)

Since January 2003 there has been intense, contractually regulated cooperation between chemists of various specializations in Leipzig and Athens. Evamarie Hey-Hawkins, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, and Ralf Hoffmann, Professor of Bioanalysis at the Center for Biotechnology and Biomedicine at the University of Leipzig, organize the cooperative projects with the Ohio University Chemistry Department. The project work takes place within individual working groups made up of established researchers, doctoral students and other students of both universities. Joint publications document the results of the international research teams.

Besides the reciprocal working visits paid by the leading researchers, there are numerous possibilities for doctoral- and other advanced students to spend multiple months abroad on research trips, internships or study abroad programs at the respective partner institute.

Every year approximately four University of Leipzig students spend a fully recognized part of their studies at Ohio University, supported by the DAAD-financed exchange program International Studies- and Educational Partnerships. They can thus not only get insight into different topic- and research areas but also deepen their language abilities and collect intercultural experiences. To date, eight Ohio University students – including doctoral students – have spent time studying and researching in Leipzig.

Each year since the beginning of the cooperation, two or three Leipzig faculty members have traveled to Ohio University for research and teaching purposes. About the same number of academics in Athens visit the facilities of their partner at the University of Leipzig.



Building of the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy at Johannissallem



Bio City Leipzig

The Research Internships in Science and Engineering –an initiative of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) – is intended to attract new research talent from North America to German universities and research facilities. The interns are to be embedded into as well as supported by doctoral research projects.

Together with their partners in Leipzig, a delegation of Ohio University academics celebrate the opening of the Bio City Leipzig in May 2003. The guests gather information primarily about research in biology at the University of Leipzig. The visit made by OU Professors John A. Bantle, Vice President for Research, David C. Wight, the Director of the Edison Biotechnology Institute, Kenneth L. Brown, Professor of Bioinorganic Chemistry, Susan Evans from the Edison Biotechnology Institute and Hugh Bloemer, the Director of the Ohio University Cartographic Center, is also connected with the internationalization processes and the International Postgraduate Program (IPP) at the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy. The goal of the talks is the intensification of the joint exchange and the building of future cooperation.

In Summer 2006 an intern from Athens is active at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, supported by the DAAD RISE program: The OU student works on a research project dealing with the development of new homogenous catalysts.

Institute of Psychology II (UL)

The contacts in the area of psychology are due especially to the engagement of Danny R. Moates, Professor at the Department of Psychology at Ohio University. During a holiday trip in Summer 1997 he visits the Institute of Psychology at the University of Leipzig for the first time. His liaison is Evelin Witruk, Professor in the area of Educational and Rehabilitative Psychology, who briefs him on the work being done at the Institute and shows the guest through the Wilhelm-Wundt Memorial Room.

Three psychology students travel under her supervision to Athens in September 1998 to receive a closer look at a variety of the partner university's courses and study offerings. They are supported by American students during their two-week trip.

As part of her visit Evelin Witruk holds a lecture on the history of psychology in Germany and in particular its beginnings in Leipzig. Besides this she participates in a colloquium held by the Department of Psychology, giving a lecture on the influence of fear on work memory functions. Finally, she also visits the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism with Robert K. Stewart as well as the School of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences. Cooperation agreements regarding possible joint research projects and conference appearances are made with colleagues from Athens.

The invitation to the international conference *Basic Mechanisms of Language and Language Disorders*, held at the University of Leipzig in September 1999, is happily accepted by researchers in Athens. Danny R. Moates and Brooke Hallowell, Professor at the School of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, take part with research later documented in the *anthology Abstracts of the international conference on Basic Mechanisms of Language and*



Danny R. Moates and Evelin Witruk with two Leipzig students in Athens

Language Disorders, edited by Evelin Witruk und Thomas Lachmann and published in Leipzig in 1999.



Danny R. Moates and Evelin Witruk
2002 in Leipzig

That the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience also functions at the student-level is also shown by the third Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) Spring Course. In Spring 2002 the binding of Leipzig students into the OLEC program *Understanding the New Europe* proves to be very successful. In addition to the 20 American participants, many German students also take part in program director Danny R. Moates' psychology class. Evelin Witruk takes care of connecting the content as well as the organizational master schedule. Getting to know other teaching components and learning styles is a lasting and stimulating experience for the participants.

In contrast, the exchange of students for longer study- or research stays at the respective partner university in the area of psychology is of little consequence. Witruk advertises the possibilities of studying abroad at two different informational meetings each semester. To date, however, only two Leipzig psychology students have spent a semester in Athens.

In terms of research, a cooperation project regarding using the measurement of eye movement as an indicator of faulty perception and cognition is being planned. In addition, another visit by Witruk to Athens is foreseen.

Institute of American Studies (UL)

The Institute of American Studies has never been directly involved in the long-term partnership relationship between the University of Leipzig and Ohio University. Nonetheless, faculty and students from the Institute have been involved for years for reasons of academic, intercultural and personal interest, most especially visible in the area of student exchanges. A large part of the Leipzig students spending a year abroad in Athens according to the framework of the university partnership are from the Institute of American Studies. Many of them build up contacts to American students using the tandem program (intended to bring learners of two languages together to practice speaking in the respective second language) or through the weekly meetings held by the Ohio-Leipzig European Center.

As the former Director of the Faculty of Philology, Anne Koenen is involved in 1998/1999 in the founding preparations of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) and becomes Chair of the Leipzig Steering Committee. During the multi-week OLEC programs there are many opportunities for meetings and conversations with American colleagues and Ohio University students.

Contact is made to the Ohio University Department of African American Studies via Director Vibert Cambridge, OLEC program director in Leipzig for ten weeks during the OLEC Spring Course in 2006. The first meeting with Hartmut Keil, the current director of the Institute of American Studies, is followed by the Leipzig academic's visit to Athens upon Cambridge's invitation. The conversations, which are held with university leaders, curriculum committee and students from the Institute, are aimed primarily at the preparations for a new, internationally oriented Masters program in African American Studies. This new course of study is intended to be led as cooperation between the Institute of American Studies in Leipzig and the Department



Hartmut Keil and his wife Sigrid Weigl visit Gordy Hall

of African American Studies and the English Department at Ohio University. In addition to this, the Institute of American Studies wants to participate in the existing student- and researcher-exchanges within other areas, interest which has also been expressed by the Ohio University English Department.

Institute of Art History

The Institute of Art History has been involved in cooperation with Ohio University representatives since the beginnings of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC). The Director of the Office for Education Abroad, Connie Perdreau, suggests on the inclusion of art historians during the conceptual phase for the planning of a course focused on art and art history. The first joint course takes place in Spring 2001 as a part of the program *The Modern Europe*. The interdisciplinary teaching combines the areas of theater sciences and art history. The class is taught by William Condee, Professor at the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Director of the OLEC Spring Course, and by the Leipzig art historian Michael Lingohr.

Michael Lingohr teaches the course *Comparative Arts* in conjunction with the OLEC Summer Schools from 2002 until 2004. Together with William Condee, he team teaches a comprehensive course program on art and culture in Europe, first in Spring 2004 and again in Spring 2007. This program offers participants of both Spring Courses an introduction to the fine arts and their cultural roots within the European context.

The course is fundamentally a narrow coupling of theory and practice. The students do not only learn in classrooms but also during numerous tours and excursions through the immediate experiencing of the original artworks, theater and musical pieces. As part of the OLEC program, other professors from the institute, such as Frank Zöllner, join in to lead tours through Leipzig's museums as well as through the city's contemporary art scene.



Michael Lingohr and his American colleague William Condee (left and right most) with the students of the OLEC Spring Course 2007

Institute of Special Education

Under the leadership of Franz Stachowiak, a professor at the Institute of Special Education under the Faculty of Education, contacts are made to American colleagues at Ohio University at the beginning of the 1990s. An exchange in the area of speech pathology is begun. Together with Brook Hallowell, professor in Speech and Hearing Sciences, commercial speech therapy programs for the treating of aphasia are comparatively tested and evaluated in a 2003 project. The cooperation is later ended when Stachowiak moves to the University of Gießen.

Institute of Special Education in
Marschnerstraße



Cooperation between the University of Leipzig's University Library and the Ohio University Libraries

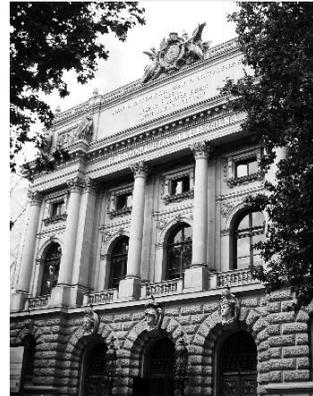
Above and beyond the academic cooperation, an exchange has been established between the two universities in the areas of administration and of the library system. The previous director of the Leipzig University Library, Ekkehard Henschke, makes the first contact to the library leadership in Athens.

The first visit by an Ohio University Libraries' employee to Leipzig is made in June 2004. Andrew Stuart works for four weeks in the coordination of the library system. His contact partner on the ground is Viola Eberlein, specialist librarian in the areas of biology and natural sciences. Since the American colleague comes from the same academic area and their tasks overlap in many places, they both gain a lot from the mutual exchanges, which are concentrated primarily on the optimization of informational functions and databank instruction for students.

In October of the same year, Viola Eberlein travels on a reciprocal visit to Athens in order to get to know the library system. During her four-week stay she takes a close-up look at the organizations and structures of the American partner institute and participates in various training events. Ideas that she wishes to take home and integrate into her work in Leipzig include on-line services and the mediation of information literacy as part of student training.

Due to a changes in the library leadership, the connection to Athens takes a one-year break. Ulrich Johannes Schneider, Director of the University Library since 2006, picks up where the thread left off and re-opens contact to his American colleague Julia Zimmermann. He supports intense cooperation with the Ohio University Libraries since the

The Leipzig University Library, founded in the year 1543, is one of the oldest German university libraries with not only a regional but also a national and international sphere of influence. Some of the most important collections include medieval and early modern writing, incunabula, the papyrus- and signature collection as well as the ostraka- and coin collection.



In addition to the main library, called the „Bibliotheca Albertina“, there are an additional 40 branches. The library collection presently includes over five million volumes and subscribes to 7,700 journals.



Librarian Jens Lazarus with his American colleague Diane Nichols



Meeting colleagues in Athens:
Andrew Stuart, Diane Nichols and
Viola Eberlein

exchanging of experiences with American colleagues has proven to be fruitful and profitable for both sides.

In March and April of 2007, the librarian Diana Nichols, a Subject Bibliographer at Ohio University's Alden Library, works for three weeks at the Leipzig University Library. She is supported by Jens Lazarus and Viola Eberlein, among others. The focus of her work is the indexing and verifying of literature and digital media as well as the mediating of information competency. American librarians are at the cutting edge, especially in terms of these key qualifications and training activities, so the interest and the exchanging of experiences are especially intense. Diana Nichols holds talks not only in front of the library council in Leipzig but also students studying Media & Communication at the Leipzig University of Applied Sciences (HTWK). In comparison, that which most strikes the listeners is the complete orientation on service, which had led to the complete redesigning of Alden Library and the embedding of so-called Learning Commons – multifunctional communications-, working- and studying areas.

During her stay in Leipzig Diana Nichols also visits the German National Library and the Saxon State and University Library in Dresden. The reciprocal visit from the University Library, focused on electronic services and room design, will take place in Spring 2008.

Steering Committee Ohio University

Since the beginnings of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC), two steering committees – one each in Athens and Leipzig – have flanked the activities of the study program, most particularly in the preparation and in basic questions of organization and administration. In light of the mature cooperative relationship between the two universities, new structures have become necessary. One outcome of a recent visit made by Josep Rota, Associate Provost for International Programs and Director of the Center for International Studies, in 2007 is the suggestion of Rektor Franz Häuser to broaden the responsibilities of the OLEC steering committee at the University of Leipzig. This should result in a stronger bundling of all the projects under the partnership. The members of the newly formed Steering Committee Ohio include Günther Heydemann from the Department of History, Ralf Hoffmann, Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy, Anne Koenen, from the Institute of American Studies, Sigrid Meuschel from the Institute of Political Science, Svend Poller, the Director of the International Centre, Rüdiger Steinmetz from Institute of Communication and Media Studies, and Stefan Troebst from the Institute of Slavonic Studies.

Chronological Overview of the Partnership between Ohio University – University of Leipzig

1991

June

Ohio University Provost James J. Bruning visits several universities in Eastern Germany during a USIA-financed exploration trip for university staff from Ohio. At the University of Leipzig, he meets with the former Prorektor Günther Wartenberg (†). In his travel report, he characterizes the tradition-rich university as the most promising partner.

1992

July

Ralph Izard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, and John Lewis Gaddis, Director of the Ohio University Contemporary History Institute (CHI), agree to cooperate with the colleagues from the Institute of Communication and Media Studies (KMW) and the Department of History at the University of Leipzig.

Ohio University applies to the American organizations Freedom Forum and the United States Information Agency (USIA) for support in financing the cooperation with the Eastern German university. This becomes a two-year American special program site for the renewal of areas previously having close system-proximity.

December

In Leipzig, the Ohio University professor Robert K. Stewart introduces the programs and the financing offered by the information agency USIA (\$125,000) and the Freedom Forum organization (\$80,000).

1993

Summer Semester

Robert K. Stewart teaches at the Institute of Communication and Media Studies (KMW) as the first guest lecturer from Ohio University.

July/August First four-week Summer School at CHI offered to Students in Higher Semesters and instructors of the University of Leipzig. The classes are taught by Professors Chester Pach and Steven M. Miner.

1994

Summer Semester Numerous Ohio University professors offer guest lectures and blocked seminars at the University of Leipzig in communications- and media sciences, journalism and in history.

June The President of Ohio University, Charles Ping, and the Rektor of the University of Leipzig, Cornelius Weiss, sign a contract of academic cooperation between Ohio University and the University of Leipzig.

July/August Second four-week Summer School at CHI offered to Students in Higher Semesters and instructors of the University of Leipzig. The classes are taught by Professors Chester Pach and Katherine Jellison.

1995

December Robert K. Stewart, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, und Karin Sandell from the College of Communication as well as a student representative from Ohio University's All-Campus Radio Network (ACRN) visit Leipzig. Among other activities, they are involved in the founding of the first Leipzig university radio mephisto 97.6.

1996

December Robert Glidden, the new President of Ohio University, the historian Chester Pach, Thomas Hodson, a Member of the Board of Trustees, Ralph Izard, and a group of students from Athens visit the University of Leipzig. Meetings and conversations take place with Rektor Cornelius Weiss and representatives of various university facilities.

1997

September The director of the International Centre, Svend Poller, visits Athens to isolate possibilities for the expanding of the partnership between the two universities. At the same time,

the Leipzig instructors Bernhard Debatin, Tilo Prase (†) and Günther Heydemann are in Athens for teaching purposes so that already existing contacts can be improved.

1998

June

First multimedia introduction and meeting between OU President Robert Glidden and Rektor Volker Bigl (†) through a video conference held by students of KMW and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, shortly after the naming of Bigl as Rektor.

October

Visit of Rektor Volker Bigl, Anne Koenen, the former Dean of the Faculty of Philology, and Svend Poller to Ohio University in Athens. The first suggestions for a joint studies program are discussed.

December

A delegation from Ohio University – including Provost Sharon Brehm, Kathy Krendl, Dean of the College of Communication, and Robert K. Stewart, coordinator of the university partnership, visit the University of Leipzig. Talks are held with, among other people, Christoph Kähler, Prorektor for Teaching and Studies, and the Kanzler of the University of Leipzig, Peter Gutjahr-Löser. During visits to different departments, the possibility of the establishment of a joint center for studies related to Europe is elicited; this center would be based at the University of Leipzig.

1999

February

Contact visit of Connie Perdreau, former director of the Office of Education Abroad, and Mary Jane Kelley, professor in the Department of Modern Languages, to the University of Leipzig. In preparation for the European studies program for students from Ohio, they meet with representatives from the Institute of Art History, the Faculty of Economics and Management, the Faculty of Education, the Herder Institute and the Leipzig Studentenwerk (similar to a student union).

March

Extension of the agreement of academic cooperation between the universities during a visit made to Leipzig by Robert Glidden, President of Ohio University. At this time a

Memorandum of Understanding related to the founding of a study program between Ohio University and the University of Leipzig is signed.

Working visits are made in both directions to hold talks on the expanding of the partnership and negotiations over the future study program known as the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC); visitors include:

- June Harold Molineu, Professor of Political Science and member of the Leipzig Program steering committee in Athens,
- July Anne Koenen, Dean of the Faculty of Philology, and Andreas Blaschczok (†), Prorektor for Research and Young Academics,
- November Wolfgang Höpken, Director of the Preparation Committee, Prorektor Christoph Kähler, Svend Poller and Sybille Scholz from interDaF e.V., an institute for the teaching of German as a foreign language.

2000

The Sparkasse Leipzig Media Foundation gives two scholarships annually to Leipzig journalism students who perform their professional internship at Ohio University.

Professional interns to date include:

- 2001 Steven Geyer
- 2002 Michael Naumann, Pierre Gehmlich
- 2003 Aksinja Berger, Sarah Plass
- 2004 Stefanie Woska, Sina Schmidt, Katja Streso
- 2005 Jana Randow, Vivien Fick
- 2006 Sebastian Döring, Stine Eckert
- 2007 Simona Vogel, Nina Wiczorek

- April Founding and ceremonial opening of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC).
The ceremonial act is held in the University of Leipzig's Alter Senatssaal in the presence of the representatives of both universities, OU President Robert Glidden and Rektor

Volker Bigl, as well as numerous other representatives, employees and students of the university facilities involved.

April - June
 First OLEC Spring Course *The New Europe*.
 An interdisciplinary course with classes in the areas of history, political science, communications and media as well as German for 12 students from Ohio University.
 Program Director: Timothy Anderson

July
 James E. Schultz, Professor of Teacher Education at Ohio University, meets colleagues in the Faculty of Mathematics in Leipzig. In addition, he takes part in selection interviews with candidates who have applied for Fulbright Commission scholarships.

December
 Greg Emery, Director of Ohio University's Global Learning Community program (GLC), travels to Leipzig to prepare for the program's trip to Leipzig in the following year. Conversations with various university instructors focus on a "real-world consulting project" with companies in Leipzig.

US Consul General Timothy Savage presents Rektor Volker Bigl with a 30,000 Deutschmark check for the OLEC program.

2001

October
 Visit of Rektor Volker Bigl and the Director of the International Centre, Svend Poller, to Ohio University for the ceremonial awarding of an Honorary Doctorate to Bigl.

December
 Visit of Ohio University President Robert Glidden and his wife to Leipzig.
 During a visit to the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy, Glidden expresses his wish for stronger cooperation in the area of natural sciences research.

As part of the Ohio Leipzig Alumni College (OLAC), 16 former Ohio University students meet for a one-week regional studies educational program in Leipzig.

2002

June

First OLEC Summer School *The Modern Europe* held in Leipzig. The five-week program offers interdisciplinary courses related to Europe.

Program Director: Bernhard Debatin

August

A delegation of representatives from the Ohio University Chemistry Department visit the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy in Leipzig. An exchange program for students and doctoral students is announced.

2003

January

The beginning of the DAAD-financed exchange program International Studies- and Educational Partnerships (ISEP) between the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy at the University of Leipzig and the Chemistry Department at Ohio University.

May

Ohio University professors, John Bantle, Vice President for Research, David Wight, Director of the Edison Institute for Biotechnology, Kenneth Brown, Professor for Bioinorganic Chemistry, and Hugh Bloemer, Director of the OU Cartographic Center, take part in the dedication of the BioCity Leipzig. As part of their visit, the delegation meets with colleagues from the Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy to hold working discussions about joint projects.

August

Carsten Lorz, instructor at the Institute for Geography at the University of Leipzig, travels to make contacts in Athens.

2004

May

200th Anniversary of Ohio University

Visit of the current Rektor of the University of Leipzig, Franz Häuser, his predecessor Volker Bigl and Svend Poller to Athens.

As part of the visit, there are various meetings with representatives of Ohio University, among others with Vibert Cambridge, Department Chair of African American Studies.

May Contract of academic cooperation from 1999 is extended by three years.

August Contact visit made by Fritz Klauser, Professor in the Faculty of Economics and Management, to hold discussions on the collaborative project Urban Management.

2006

December Robert K. Stewart meets with a variety of representatives from the University of Leipzig for working discussions. The planned visit of the current President of Ohio University, Roderick McDavis, is postponed for the time being.

2007

April Josep Rota, Associate Provost of International Programs and Director of the Center for International Studies, makes a working visit to Leipzig. He is caught up on the existing cooperation with various institutes and discusses with Rektor Franz Häuser further steps for the deepening and broadening of existing cooperation.

December Visit by an Ohio University delegation led by Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Kathy Krendl to mark the 15th anniversary of the universities' partnership. The contract of academic cooperation between the two universities is extended.

Chronology

Institute of Communication and Media Studies, University of Leipzig – E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University

1992

July

Ralph Izard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, and John Lewis Gaddis, Director of the Ohio University Contemporary History Institute (CHI), visit the University of Leipzig and meet the founding dean of the newly established Institute of Communication and Media Studies (KMW), Karl Friedrich Reimers, for preliminary talks about the connecting of Ohio University's journalism and history programs with the corresponding programs at the University of Leipzig.

September

The Leipzig journalism student Gabriele Mäurer begins a Masters program at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism; she is supported through a scholarship awarded by the Freedom Forum.

December

In Leipzig, the Ohio University professor Robert K. Stewart introduces the programs and the financing offered by the information agency USIA (\$125,000) and the Freedom Forum organization (\$80,000); first contacts are established with Gerhard Piskol and Rüdiger Steinmetz of KMW as well as with the director of the International Centre, Svend Poller.

1993

Summer Semester

Robert K. Stewart teaches at the Institute of KMW as the first guest lecturer from Ohio University. His seminars deal with *Mass Media in the USA* and *CNN Coverage of East Germany after the 'Wende'*.

During his time at the University of Leipzig, Stewart invites several of his colleagues at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism to hold guest lectures in Leipzig. Professors Anne Cooper-Chen, Hugh Culbertson, Dru Evarts, Marilyn Greenwald, Mel Helitzer, Tom Hodges and Patrick Washburn participate with presentations based on their research interests.

Patricia Westfall offers two courses on *Principle of Design* and *Survey of American Magazines*; Anne Cooper-Chen teaches one section of each class.

April During his one-week stay in Leipzig, Patrick Washburn holds a lecture at the Institute for KMW focusing on the history of mass media: *The U.S. Government and the Black Press in World War II as well as The U.S. Government and the Press in Twentieth-Century Wars*.

May At the Amerika Haus in Leipzig, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism Professors Robert K. Stewart and Patrick Washburn take part in a podium discussion on the topic *A Historical Overview of the First Amendment and the American Press*.

July/August In Athens, the Leipzig instructor Gerhard Piskol takes part in the Summer School held by CHI, offered for the first time to Leipzig students and instructors.

September Jörg Land, employee at the Center for Media and Communications, is in Athens for a working visit of several weeks. The topic of his educational project is the use of computer technology for print and audio training.

1994

February Rüdiger Steinmetz visits Athens. This contact trip serves to elicit further possibilities for collaboration.

April As a guest lecturer at the Institute for KMW, Patrick Washburn holds a lecture on the topic *Government Efforts to Control Press Coverage of the Atomic Bomb during World War II*.

- July/August Second four-week Summer School at CHI offered to Students in Higher Semesters and instructors of the University of Leipzig. The classes are taught by Professors Chester Pach and Katherine Jellison.
- August The Leipzig journalism student Katrin Pomper begins her Masters program at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.
- December Robert K. Stewart and Karin Sandell from the College of Communication as well as a representative of the Ohio University student radio station visit Leipzig:
Stewart and Jonathan Walsch, student director of the PR department from All-Campus Radio Network (ACRN) participate in a discussion about the founding of the first Leipzig university radio mephisto 97.6 and in a documentation seminar. Karin Sandell holds a lecture on political communication in US-American political campaigns.
- Sponsorship from the Freedom Forum for the exchange runs out.
- 1995** During a meeting between on the one side OU Journalism Professors Ralph Izard and Robert K. Stewart, their Leipzig colleague Rüdiger Steinmetz as well as two Leipzig students, and on the other side representatives of the Freedom Forum, an agreement is reached leading to a final, one-time grant of \$10,000 for further cooperative projects.
- Michael Haller, Professor of Journalism at the Institute for KMW at the University of Leipzig, introduces to his colleagues in Athens the concept of Leipzig journalism and makes arrangements regarding possible *Volontariatsstellen* (professional internships for Leipzig journalism students).
- September Student editors of the Leipzig university radio station mephisto 97.6 travel for the first time to Ohio University. The excursion is subsidized by the RIAS commission in Berlin.

October Günter Bentele travels to Athens on a short visit. He holds talks with representatives of Ohio University, including PR professors at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism. These contacts bear fruit as Bentele collaborates on the anthology *International Public Relations*, published by Hugh M. Culbertson (1996).

December E.W. Scripps School of Journalism Professors Ralph Izard and Robert K. Stewart make a working trip to Leipzig.

1996

Spring and Fall Student editors from the Leipzig university radio station mephisto 97.6 visit the teaching studios of the station WOUB Radio and TV at Ohio University.

Summer Instructor Larry Levin from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism holds a seminar on *Environmental TV at the Institute of KMW in Leipzig*.

August As the first intern from Leipzig, Ine Dippmann takes a five-week-long in-depth look behind the scenes at WOUB Radio and TV at Ohio University.

September The Leipzig journalism students Sabine Witt and Nina Schlüter start their professional internships in the editorial office of the local TV station ACTV-7 News and the public broadcasting station WOUB Radio and TV in Athens.

Winter Semester Jeff Johnson, student at E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, spends a semester abroad at the Institute of KMW in Leipzig. He takes active part as a radio editor at the student radio mephisto 97.6

December Ralph Izard and seven journalism students from Athens visit the Institute for KMW at the University of Leipzig.

1997

May Bernd Schorb, Professor of Media Pedagogy at the Institute for KMW, and the instructor Heide Schochow make an excursion to Athens with editors from mephisto 97.6.

- September Bernhard Debatin makes his first short visit to Athens. He presents an Internet-related cooperative project to his American colleagues and holds a guest lecture on ethical aspects of conventional and new media.
- Winter Semester Tilo Prase (†) becomes the first member of KMW to teach as a Visiting Professor at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, living and teaching for three months in Athens.
- December Robert K. Stewart visits the Institute for KMW in Leipzig. Among other things, he discusses a future cooperative project with Bernhard Debatin.

In this same period of time, a masters student from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Deborah Schwartz-Shaar, does research at the University of Leipzig for her MA thesis *When East Meets West: Rebuilding Journalism Education at the University of Leipzig, Germany*. Within this framework, she holds numerous one-on-one interviews with professors and instructors in the area of journalism. Her thesis advisor is Robert K. Stewart.

1998

Summer

Anne Cooper-Chen offers a series of classes at the Institute for KMW: *Sex Roles and Media Around the World: Comics, Ads, TV News and TV Entertainment; Foreign Correspondence: issues, career paths, and content – with special attention to coverage of Germany in US media; International Images: Why we see what we see about other countries und Gender roles and worldwide media*.

During his research sabbatical, Günter Bentele is a Visiting Professor in Athens for two months. He takes part in classes, holds lectures on topics such as *Mechanisms of Public Trust or Public Relations in Germany* and has discussions with students from the chapter of the Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA). The result of this research visit is the loose-leaf book *Public Relations in Deutschland* (1998).

- April/May The broadcast journalist Walther von La Roche, Honorary Professor at the Institute for KMW, leads an excursion of Leipzig journalism students to Athens.
- Summer Leipzig and OU students hold simultaneous experiments in the area of computer video technology to test the multimedia possibilities of electronically offered courses.
- May The first on-line lecture is transmitted from Leipzig to Athens using a video conference system: Bernhard Debatin's lecture on *Myths and Metaphors of the Internet* is followed successfully in Robert K. Stewart's course *Journalism on the Web*.
- June Twenty students participate in a one-hour-long video conference between KMW in Leipzig and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism led by Bernhard Debatin and Robert K. Stewart. The highest level of representatives from both universities are present: Robert Glidden, President of Ohio University, and Volker Bigl (†), Rektor of the University of Leipzig. With the help of the Internet, these two representatives meet each other for the first time with picture and sound. Within the framework of this friendly greeting, Bigl invites his colleague to visit him and the university in Leipzig in the near future.
- September As part of a study trip with students from KMW, Rüdiger Steinmetz visits the educational editorial office of the university radio station ACRN in Athens.
- November Bernhard Debatin's on-line lecture on *Internet and Ethics* is broadcasted in real-time to Robert K. Stewart's class on *Web-Journalism*.

1999

- April/May An excursion led by the Leipzig instructor Margarete Lünenburg takes KMW students from Leipzig to Athens.
- September Bernhard Debatin and Gerhard Piskol from the Institute of KMW make a working trip to Athens. They both give

- guest lectures in courses taught by Robert K. Stewart and Patricia Westfall. In talks with colleagues from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Debatin discusses possibilities for further collaboration and joint trainings in the area of multimedia.
- November Together with Amerika-Haus Leipzig, the Institute for KMW holds an international conference on *The Privacy of Public Persons in the Media*. The event takes place within the context of the U.S. presidential elections and the impeachment case against Bill Clinton.
- 2000**
since 2000 The financing of professional internship years at Ohio University is eased by the rewarding of scholarships by the Sparkasse Leipzig Media Foundation. Every year two students from Leipzig journalism will receive this support for their practical training.
- Professional interns to date include:
 2001 Steven Geyer
 2002 Michael Naumann, Pierre Gehmlich
 2003 Aksinja Berger, Sarah Plass
 2004 Stefanie Woska, Sina Schmidt, Katja Streso
 2005 Jana Randow, Vivien Fick
 2006 Sebastian Döring, Stine Eckert
 2007 Simona Vogel, Nina Wiczorek
- April - June As part of the founding of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC), the first spring quarter course *The New Europe* is held with 12 OU students. The pilot project offers participants classes on topics related to Europe in the areas of politics, history, media and geography. The program director is the OU professor Timothy Anderson.
- Winter Semester Bernhard Debatin works and teaches at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism as a Visiting Professor.
- December With a group of Journalism students, Robert K. Stewart visits the Institute for KMW in Leipzig. In addition to joint classes, numerous excursions take place.

2001

January - July

Sabine Witt conducts research at Ohio University for her Diplom (MA) thesis *How Public is Public Television? A closer look at the decision-making process of programming public television*. At the same time, the Leipzig journalism student is the assistant to the Director of the Institute for International Journalism Terry Anderson. Her thesis is supervised by the Leipzig professor Rüdiger Steinmetz as well as by Robert K. Stewart from Ohio University.

Summer

Rüdiger Steinmetz travels with Leipzig KMW students to Athens and then on to Atlanta and Chicago to become acquainted with the American media system as well as to use prior knowledge in practical seminar work in the teaching editorial office.

September

Bernhard Debatin becomes a professor at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, leaving the Professorship for the Theory and Sociology of Public Communications and Media Ethics at the University of Leipzig Institute for KMW.

December

Robert K. Stewart leads another excursion of students from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism to the Institute for KMW in Leipzig.

2002

June - August

19 students from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism come to Leipzig for the first OLEC Summer School. The students participate in intensive courses in KMW and art history as well as in a German class accompanying their studies.

2004

September/October

Rüdiger Steinmetz and Christoph Peters travel with students from mephisto 97.6 to Athens for a four-day visit. After working on team projects with OU students the group visits Radio Goethe in San Francisco to broadcast a radio show, among other things.

Researcher Exchange

Members of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at the University of Leipzig:

- Robert K. Stewart
- Patricia Westfall
- Dru Riley Everts
- Marilyn Greenwald
- Patrick Washburn
- Larry Levin
- Mel Helitzer
- Hugh Culbertson
- Ralph Izard
- Bernhard Debatin

Members of the Institute for KMW at Ohio University:

- Gerhard Piskol
- Brook Hailu
- Günter Bentele
- Rüdiger Steinmetz
- Hans-Jörg Stiehler
- Michael Haller
- Bernhard Debatin
- Tilo Prase (†)

Chronology

Department of History, University of Leipzig – Contemporary History Institute, Ohio University

1992

July

The historian and professor at the Department of History at Ohio University, John Lewis Gaddis, and Ralph Izzard, Director of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, visit the University of Leipzig to initiate contact with colleagues at that location as well as to explore possibilities for collaboration.

September

Wilfred Poppe, a student of history at the University of Leipzig, begins a Masters program at Ohio University in Athens.

1993

July/August

The first four-week-long Summer School for Students in Higher Semesters and inspectors of the University of Leipzig is held at the Ohio University Contemporary History Institute (CHI). Seven history students from Leipzig take part. Course instructors are Professors Chester Pach and Steven M. Miner.

1994

April/May

Representatives of CHI travel to Leipzig to hold guest lectures at the University of Leipzig:

Chester Pach

Charles C. Alexander

Steven M. Miner, *USSR: From World War II to Cold War*.

Summer

A week-long Leipzig summer school with the topic *How European is Europe?* is offered to students of Ohio University by the University of Leipzig Department of History. The course instructor is Wolfgang Höpken, who leads the students through the course together with the American professors Steven M. Miner and Robert K. Stewart.

July/August

The second four-week-long Summer School for Students in Higher Semesters and inspectors of the University of Leipzig is held at CHI. The classes are led by Professors Chester Pach and Katherine Jellison.

1995

September

Günther Heydemann, Professor at the Department of History at the University of Leipzig, is in Athens on a visit. His guest lecture topic: *A German Soviet Russia? On the British Judgment of the Development in the Soviet Occupation Zone 1945-1949.*

1996

December

Chester Pach, Professor at CHI, goes to Leipzig on a working visit. Guest lecture: *The Meanings of Madonna*, held at the Institute of American Studies

1997

Fall Quarter

During a research sabbatical as a CHI Visiting Professor at Ohio University, Günther Heydemann teaches a seminar on *Social History in the Third Reich.*

Wolfgang Höpken visits CHI in Athens. He holds a public lecture called *War and Memory in Yugoslavia.*

1998

Spring Quarter

As a visiting professor, Wolfgang Höpken teaches a CHI seminar on *The History of the Balkans after 1945.*

The Leipzig student of history Claudia Weber finishes her MA in History at Ohio University.

1999

November

A delegation from the University of Leipzig travels to Athens as part of the preparations for the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC).

In addition to the Director of the International Centre, Svend Poller, and the Prorektor for Teaching and Studies, Christoph Kähler, Wolfgang Höpken also takes part. As director of the team in charge of preparation, he is significantly involved in the creation of the OLEC program.

2000

March

As part of the grand opening of the Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC) program of study, Chester Pach visits the University of Leipzig with a delegation made up of Ohio University administration and academic representatives.

September

Günther Heydemann visits Ohio University to hold working conversations as well as to hold a guest lecture on *Theory and Methodology of the Empirical Comparison of Dictatorships of the Nazi and SED Regimes*.

October

The Leipzig history student Christina Mayer begins her Masters in History at Ohio University.

2003

September

During a visit to CHI Günther Heydemann holds a guest lecture on the topic *The American-German Relations after the Iraq War*.

December

Professors Steven M. Miner and Norman Goda from CHI are guests of the Department of History at the University of Leipzig. Together with Günther Heydemann, they discuss a collaborative project documenting the American-European relationship since 9/11.

2004

March

The historian Steven M. Miner from CHI accepts an invitation from Günther Heydemann to take part in the international conference *Diktaturen im Vergleich* [Dictatorships in Comparison], held at the University of Leipzig.

2005

April

Günther Heydemann and 12 students from the Department of History in Leipzig make a study trip to CHI. This trip takes place within the framework of preparation for the collaborative project *Consensus, crisis and conflict: US-European Relations before and after the Iraq War 2001-2007* as well as to exchange work results with Chester Pach's students, who are also researching the aftereffects of 9/11 and the War in Iraq.

2006

October

Working trip made by Heydemann to Athens to hold talks about the creation of a collaborative documentation known as *Consensus, crisis and conflict: US-European Relations before and after the Iraq War 2001-2007*. During this visit the Leipzig historian also holds a guest lecture called Political, Economic and Social Aspects of German Reunification after 15 years: Successes and failures.

2007

March - July

Research work done by the Leipzig doctoral student Jan Gülzau at Ohio University in Athens. As part of his dissertation, the historian works on the documentation planned by Heydemann and Pach. *Consensus, crisis and conflict: US-European Relations before and after the Iraq War 2001-2007*.

Ohio-Leipzig European Center (OLEC)

Overview of the Spring Courses and Summer Schools

2000 Spring Course 10 April - 16 June

12 Students

Timothy G.
Anderson,
Department of
Geography

The New Europe

- Geography of the "Industrial World"

- History, Politics, and Economics in Europe
(Wolfgang Höpken, Günther Heydemann, Sigrid
Meuschel, Thomas Schaarschmidt, Wolfgang Fach, Chris-
tian Fenner (†), Rolf Hasse)

- Media in Europe (Gerhard Piskol, Hans-Jörg Stiehler,
Rüdiger Steinmetz, Michael Haller, Günter Bentele, Bern-
hard Debatin)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course (interDaF e. V.)
- German/Field Studies in Germany

- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin und Prague (Czech Rep.)

Fall Course September - December

8 Students

David Chappell,
College of Business

The Modern Europe

- Business

- History and Politics in Europe (various instructors and
professors from the Institute of Political Science and the
Department of History)

- Media in Europe (various instructors and professors from
the Institute of Communication and Media Studies)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course
(Annette Kühn, interDaF e. V.)
- German/Field Studies in Germany

- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin und Prague (Czech Rep.)

2001**Spring**

26 March - 22 June

20 Students

William

Condee, School of
Interdisciplinary Arts**The Modern Europe**

- Comparative Arts

- History and Politics in Europe (various instructors and professors from the Institute of Political Science and the Department of History)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course (interDaF e. V.)
- German/Field Studies in Germany- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin und Prague
(Czech Republic)**2002****Spring**

17 March - 12 June

20 Students

Danny Moates,
Department of
Psychology**Understanding the New Europe**

- Psychology

- History and Politics in Europe
(Manuel Schramm, Gert Röhrborn, Barbara Könczöl)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course (interDaF e. V.)

- German/Field Studies in Germany

- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin und Prague
(Czech Republic)**Summer School**

17 June - 21 July

19 Students

Bernhard Debatin,
E.W. Scripps School
of Journalism**The Modern Europe**

- European Media

- Comparative Arts (Michael Lingohr)

- German/Field Studies in Germany
(Patricia R. Stokes)- Excursions: Berlin, Munich, Potsdam, Wörlitz, Dresden
und Weimar

2003**Spring**

28 March - 19 June

20 Students

Joseph McLaughlin,
Department of
English

Humanities in Europe

- Images of the City: Introduction into International Literature, English and Continental Literature

- Seminar on Modern Europe: European Studies, Studies in Political Sciences (Barbara Könczöl, Ronny Mücklich)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course (interDaF e. V.)
- German/Field Studies in Germany
(Antje Zambeze, Birgit Kirchner - interDaF e. V.)

- Excursions: Berlin, Dresden, Weimar und Prague (Czech Republic)

Summer School

23 June - 25 July

12 Students

Robert Stewart,
E.W. Scripps School
of Journalism

Arts and Culture in the New Europe

- European Media

- Comparative Arts (Michael Lingohr)

- German/Field Studies in Germany (Robert D. Stewart)

- Excursions to Munich, Weimar, Dresden, Berlin und Prague (Czech Republic)

2004**Spring**

28 March - 24 June

23 Students

Harvey Ballard, Environmental and Plant Biology Department

William Condee,
School of Interdisciplinary Arts

I. Plants and People in the New Europe

- Plant Biology: Plants and People, Biodiversity and Conservation in the New Europe

- Excursions: Harz, Breslau (PL), Zingst, Wörlitz, Haarlem (Holland), Berlin

II. Art and Culture in the New Europe

- Interdisciplinary Arts: Introduction into Fine Arts, Great Masterworks, Cultural Traditions and the Arts, Viewing Performances (team teaching with Michael Lingohr),

- Excursions: Berlin, Breslau (PL), Wörlitz, Harz, Dresden und Prague (Czech Republic)

- The New Europe: European Studies, Politics in Western Europe (Christian Lotz, Stefanie Walter)

- Intensive German Preparatory Course (Birgit Kirchner, Irina Amelung - interDaF e. V.)

- German/Field Studies in Germany (Robert D. Stewart)

Summer School

28 June - 29 July

16 Students

Timothy G. Anderson,
Department of
Geography

Religion in Western Europe

- Religious Place and Geography

- Interdisciplinary Art: Introduction into Fine Arts, Great Masterworks (Michael Lingohr)

- German/Field Studies in Germany (Robert D. Stewart)

- Excursions: Quedlinburg, Wittenberg, Naumburg, Prague (Czech Republic)

2005

Spring

1 April - 16 June

12 Students

James Petrik,
Department
of Philosophy

The New Europe

- Philosophy: Fundamentals of Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

- Interdisciplinary Arts: Viewing Performances (Stephan Koch)

- The New Europe: European Studies/Politics in Western Europe (Christian Lotz, Stefanie Walter)

- German/Field Studies in Germany (Renate Huni, Cordula Hunold)

- Excursions: Wittenberg, Berlin, Prague (Czech Republic)

Summer School

18 April - 22 July

9 Studenten

Elliot Abrams,
Department
of Sociology and
Anthropology

Ann Freter-Abrams,
Department of
Sociology and
Anthropology

The New Europe

- Anthropology: Introduction into World Prehistory,
European Prehistory

- Political Ecology of New Europe,
Deforestation and Development

- Interdisciplinary Arts: Viewing Performances
(Katrin Pietrass)

- German/Field Studies in Germany (Renate Huni,
Cordula Hunold)

- Excursions: Dresden, Freiburg, Prague (Czech Republic)

2006**Spring**

1 April - 8 June

13 Students

Vibert Cambridge,
Department of
African American
Studies

Patricia
Cambridge,
E.W. Scripps School
of Journalism

The New Europe

- African American Studies

- Journalism: Introduction to Mass Communication,
Introduction to Public Relations

- The New Europe: European Studies,
Politics in Western Europe (Stefanie Richter)

- Interdisciplinary Arts: Viewing Performances
(Stephan Koch)

- German/Field Studies in Germany
(Renate Huni, Diana Baumrucker)

- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin, Prague
(Czech Republic)

Summer School

16 June - 21 July

10 Students

Joseph Mc Laughlin,
Department of
English

Miriam Shadis,
Department of
History

The New Europe

- English: English and Continental Literature
International Literature

- History: Church and State

- German/Field Studies in Germany
(Florian Schulze, Anja Henze)

- Excursions: Dresden, Berlin, Naumburg, Wittenberg,
Prague (Czech Republic)

2007**Spring**

2 April - 7 June

12 Students

William Condee,
School of Inter-
disciplinary Arts

The Modern Europe

- Interdisciplinary Arts: Introduction into Fine Arts,
Great Masterworks, Cultural Traditions and the Arts,
Viewing Performances (team teaching with Michael
Lingohr),

- The New Europe: European Studies,
Politics in Western Europe (Stefanie Richter)

- Deutsch (Diana Baumrucker, Adriana Slavcheva)

- Excursions: Dresden, Weimar, Berlin, Wörlitz, Naum-
burg, Prague (Czech Republic)

Summer School

11 June - 18 July

9 Students

Harvey Ballard,
Environmental
and Plant Biology
Department

The New Europe

- Plant Biology: The Wurst-Käse-Scenario - Biology and
Geography of Central European Food Plants

- German/Field Studies in Germany
(Diana Baumrucker, Adriana Slavcheva)

- Excursions: Bacharach/Rhine, Munich, Füssen, Grimma

Global Competitiveness Program Facts 2000-2007

2000

OU Director:	Rebecca Thacke
OU Students:	20
UL Students:	19
Companies:	10 (biosynergy, IT Campus, Sachsen LB, Wirtschafts-junioren Leipzig [Junior Chamber International in Leipzig], Stadtwerke Leipzig [Leipzig Public Services], ICC Sprachinstitut [ICC Language Institute], ITUT, Virbus, Jüdische Syna-goge Leipzig [Jewish Synagogue Leipzig], Villa Rosental)

2001

OU Directors:	Ashok Gupta, Greg Waller
OU Students:	20
UL Students:	18
Companies:	9 (Max-Klinger-Chöre [Max Klinger Choirs], UGB Leipzig, [Sparkasse Beteiligungsgesellschaft [Sparkasse Investment Company], Aufbauwerk Leipzig, Saxess, eBrosia.com, Südraum Leipzig, Content Regional, ICC Sprachinstitut)

2002

OU Directors:	Scott Wright, Faizul Huq
OU Students:	20
UL Students:	19
Companies:	10 (Max-Klinger-Schule [Max Klinger School], ICC Sprach-institut, Verbraucherzentrale Sachsen [Consumer Advice Center], dima Immobilien [dime Real Estate], 3W Consul-ting, Convex, Primacom, PolterBehr, IB Seek & Krüger, Con-tent Regional)

2003

OU Directors:	Toby Stock, Chris Moberg, Jeff Anderson
OU Students:	25
UL Students:	26
Companies:	12 (Max-Klinger-Schule, Braun & Filzer, Schulte Rechts-anwälte [Schulte Law Firm], Subway, Pathus Reiseservice [Pathus Travel Services], Deutsch-Chinesischer Freund-schaftsverein [Germany-China Friendship Association],

Champion's Sports Bar, ICC Sprachinstitut, Primacom, Evangelische Kirchgemeinde Holzhausen [Protestant Church Community in Holzhausen], Center of Excellence Mitteldeutschland, 2b international)

2004

OU Directors: Toby Stock, Ken Hartung, Chris Yost, John O'Brien, Margi O'Brien
 OU Students: 30
 UL Students: 29
 Companies: 15 (ICC Sprachinstitut, viando, HolzStoff, Perdata, Schloss-hotel Schkopau, Max-Klinger-Schule, Pathus Reiseservice, Subway, fitsein.tv, Stadt Leipzig [City of Leipzig], ars syn-erga, Deutsch-Chinesischer Freundschaftsverein, Schulte Rechtsanwälte, amecan, World Conference on Customer Integrated Management)

2005

OU Directors: Toby Stock, Ken Hartung
 OU Students: 20
 UL Students: 22
 Companies: 10 (Lions Quest, Enquete-Kommission „Kultur in Deutschland“ des 15. Deutschen Bundestages [Enquete Commission for "Culture in Germany", est. by the 15th German Bundestag], Subway, Leipzig International School, Protestantische Grundschule Döben [Protestant Elementary School in Döben], Pathus Reiseservice, Leipzig Tourist Service/Leipzig Erleben, ICC Sprachinstitut, French Bistro Leonart&Picouays, Blue Piano Entertainment)

2006

OU Directors: Faizul Huq, Robert „Zeke“ Sarikas, Bob Litter, Linda Litter
 OU Students: 20
 UL Students: 20
 Companies: 10 (Subwarehouse, Pathus Reiseservice, ICC Sprachinstitut, Montrassa Pictures, Forikolo e.V., Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig [University of Music and Theatre in Leipzig], Thomaskirche Leipzig [Church of St. Thomas in Leipzig], Universität Leipzig, Innoways, Musiklehrervereinigung Sachsen [Association of Music Instructors in Saxony])

2007

OU Directors:	Toby Stock, Chris Yost, Glen Cortlett, Rick Brown, Mike Boland
OU Students:	20
UL Students:	20
Companies:	10 (Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, Thomanerchor [St. Thomas' Church Boys' Choir], Forikolo e.V., Pathus Reiseservice, Mercure Hotel, Sportsbar (i. Gr.), GCP Back Home (i. Gr.), Albert Roger Milla Augenklinik Kamerun [Eye Clinic Cameroon], Sekem University Kairo, Print on demand (i. Gr.) [i. Gr. = in founding])

Summary 2000-2007

OU Directors:	18 - of these, three were guests in Leipzig on two occasions while one program director was here on four occasions
OU Students:	175
UL Students:	173
Projects:	86 projects in 67 companies and non-profit organizations

Faculty of Chemistry and Mineralogy

Overview of the cooperative projects

Working Group of Evamarie Hey-Hawkins

Institute of Inorganic Chemistry

Cooperative project *Primary and Secondary Phosphine Coordination Chemistry at Ruthenium*
with Mike Jensen, Inorganic Chemistry, OU

This project designed for the long-term began in 2002 with the cooperation between the American Fred Lemke, Professor for Inorganic Chemistry at OU, and has been continued with Mike Jensen. The joint work encompasses among other things phosphine, its transitional metal complexes and air-sensitive substances, the Schlenk technique, and IR- and NMR spectroscopy as well as X-ray structural analysis as methods. To date there have been two joint publications.

Working Group of Ralf Hoffmann

Center for Biotechnology and Biomedicine

Cooperative project *Antimicrobial Peptide*
with Stephen Bergmeier, Organic Chemistry, OU

Since February 2005 an active collaboration – supported not least by a two-way exchange of personnel – that has focused on the development of new compounds with antimicrobial characteristics. The methods of both research institutes complement each other meaningfully; the combining of compound classes developed in both laboratories led to a new, promising direction. A student from the Leipzig Working Group, was in Athens in Spring 2005, working on their Diplom (similar to MA/MS) thesis. In response, a doctoral student from Stephen Bergmeier's Working Group

went to Leipzig in October of the same year for research purposes. A doctoral student from Leipzig will be working in the same area for two months in 2008

Cooperative project *Tumorigenic Process*
with Susan Evan, Biotechnology, OU

This shared-labor project is dedicated to the examination of tumors in a mouse model. To accomplish this, for example, proteins prepared in Athens are analyzed by Leipzig researchers using mass spectrometry. Within the framework of the collaboration, in the years 2003 and 2004 one doctoral student from Leipzig and one from Athens visit the cooperating Working Group.

In the following years many students from Leipzig do research in Susan Evan's Working Group. The first data resulting from these cooperative efforts have already been presented at conferences and published.

Working Group of Harald Morgner

Wilhelm Ostwald Institute of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry

Cooperative project *Investigation of Polyelectrolyte Multilayers*
with Gregory van Patten, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, OU

The state-funded project has been running since 2003. Numerous joint publications show the productive and successful character of the collaboration.

Working Group of Christoph Schneider

Institute of Organic Chemistry, Heterocyclic Chemistry

Cooperative project *Employment of Enantioselective Ring-Opening Reactions of meso-Aziridines for Natural Product Synthesis*
with Stephen Bergmeier, Organic Chemistry, OU

This collaboration was agreed to upon the visit of the Leipzig professor Christoph Schneider to Ohio University in September 2006. His American colleague Stephen Bergmeier participates in Schneider's Working Group from June until December of 2007 while taking a sabbatical. Using this opportunity, joint work on the use of aziridine for the synthesis of natural materials is arranged. One of OU Professor Mark McMills' doctoral students does research in Leipzig from January until March of 2007, studying the area of asymmetrical catalysis; the results are summarized in a scientific publication.

Work- and research visits

Leipzig scientists to Ohio University

Institute of Analytical Chemistry:

Institute of Inorganic Chemistry:

Institute of Organic Chemistry:

Center for Biotechnology and Biomedicine:

Physical Chemistry:

Frank-Michael Matysik

Evamarie Hey-Hawkins,

Berthold Kersting,

Christian Drost

Peter Welzel,

Christoph Schneider

Ralf Hoffmann

Harald Morgner

OU scientists to the University of Leipzig

Organic Chemistry:

Biochemistry:

Analytical Chemistry:

Physical Chemistry:

Inorganic Chemistry:

Stephen Bergmeier

Jennifer Hines,

Shiyong Wu

Peter de B. Harrington

Gregory van Patten,

Fred Lemke, Shadrick Paris

Michael Jensen

Interview with Robert K. Stewart,

Director of the Institute for International
Journalism at the E.W. Scripps School of
Journalism, Ohio University

Prof. Stewart, how would you describe your first impressions when you came to Leipzig in early 1993 as a Visiting Professor?

Stewart: My first impression of Leipzig and the academic challenges facing the university was that it clearly was going to take some time for the dust to settle, and for new structures to emerge that could be navigated and understood by an outsider. I understood that one of my missions, as a visiting professor, was to provide an outsider's perspective -- in my case, clearly an „American“ perspective. That was, in fact, one of the goals of the foundation that sponsored the initial contact. I understood that the only way my ideas and perspectives would be taken seriously would be to do everything possible to understand what was happening on the ground. I did my best to ask as many questions as possible. My (very) limited German meant that I couldn't follow every detail in a faculty meeting, but I was able to ask questions after the meeting to try to understand what was taking place.

What was your motivation for making this new connection grow?

Stewart: The answer probably is very simple, and even simplistic: idealism. I wanted to take part in this historic enterprise, this very, very interesting and important change in academic structure and approach. I was fascinated by all of the recent and not-so-recent history of the journalism „sektion“ in GDR times, as well as the efforts on the part of students and faculty to save the program from elimination, which was the original plan. To be able to participate even

in a small way in the rebirth of this now-major program was an honor.

When teaching at the Institute of Communications and Media Studies in 1993, other colleagues from OU lectured in your classes or gave presentations to UL-students. Do you recall any responses by your colleagues about this time? What were your own teaching experiences with and private insights about working and living in Eastern Germany?

Stewart: My colleagues and I all found the idea of working - and in my case, living for some months - in the former East Germany to be a very exciting learning opportunity for us. Not many years before, we had seen the news reports of the Berlin Wall tumbling down, having no idea that in just a few years -- really, months -- we would be in Leipzig, where the protests had begun that brought down the wall. Pretty amazing for us, as you can imagine.

Unlike many of my colleagues, I had lived in another country for many years, having grown up in Thailand (1958-75), so the idea of living in another country didn't seem too difficult to me. And with basic German -- OK, enough to buy food and catch the right train -- I didn't feel completely lost. My colleagues who came to Leipzig during the semester that I taught found the city to be exciting, but in some cases a little depressing as well. At that time, much of the construction that now is complete had not yet begun, and there was still a little bit of a feeling of uncertainty, chaos, etc. But really, it wasn't at all chaotic in any real way; but yes, it was an exciting time for all of us.

How would you characterize the partnership between OU and UL today?

Stewart: The OU and UL partnership is a bit like the little train that travels over the mountain, sometimes barely noticed by everyone around it! The train does its work, day in and day out, mostly because it is an important mission that continues to meet important needs. Those needs include

study abroad experiences for students from both programs, research and internship experiences, etc. There are those of us who would like to see the train engine upgraded so that even more can be done. But until that upgrade comes about, the little engine will continue to do its work in a very efficient way, I predict. And the students (and professors!) who ride on the train enjoy a very interesting and important journey.

The OLEC program is entering its 7th year in 2007. Why should students study in Leipzig rather than in an English speaking country?

Stewart: Of course, many American students do prefer such programs in English-speaking countries. And it probably is true that if Ohio University had put its program in London, the number of students participating each year would be higher. But the administration (Glidden, Brehm, etc.) realized that a program in the middle of Europe would provide a much different and probably much more important education experience. Students who choose to take part in the OLEC program understand this as well, mainly because they have heard from previous students about the value of the program.

The current contract about the cooperation between Athens and Leipzig ends in 2007 and will surely be extended. What is your wish for the future of this partnership?

Stewart: My hope is that the cooperation would continue into the future for another five, ten, fifteen years (when I retire!), and of course beyond that as well. I've seen the impact that the program has had on students, who personally thank me for my work on behalf of the OLEC program. If the number of students participating goes up without having a negative impact on the program, then good, let's do it. But if the program only „works“ because of the current number of students, then we should keep the number about the same.

I know that there will always be an interest on the part of one program or another on our respective campuses to expand the program. Right now, the African American studies programs seem quite keen on developing a cooperation. And thus it is that I've seen how my colleagues benefit from the program, and I hope the same can be said by my colleagues and friends at the Univ. of Leipzig. In fact, I count a number of colleagues in Leipzig as friends, and no matter what happens at the official level, we will continue to be friends.

Interview with Bernhard Debatin,

**Associate Professor at the E.W. Scripps School
of Journalism, Ohio University**

Prof. Debatin, being a lecturer for public communication theory and sociology/media ethics at the University of Leipzig, you worked as a Visiting Professor at OU for the entire Fall Quarter 2000/2001. How did this teaching experience influence your further work and career plans?

Debatin: The visiting professorship was indeed a door-opener, although it was not intended to be that. I taught a class on media ethics, one on communication theory, one on international media, and one on online journalism. This gave me a good opportunity to get acquainted with the American system of higher education. During my visiting professorship, the school of Journalism received funding for a new tenure-track position, and the job description was very close to my research and teaching interests. After considering my options, and weighing the costs and benefits, I decided to apply for the position as an Associate Professor and was then made an offer in Spring 2001.

What made me consider moving to the U.S. was firstly my wife Patricia Stokes who is an American. I had visited the U.S. a number of times and liked the people and the country. Second, my position in Leipzig was only a limited professorship, which was regrettable because it was the first and only German professorship that had media ethics in its title and job description.

Third, the overall the German academic market is extremely unpredictable and very few options for a very high number of extremely qualified job applicants. This is frustrating and discouraging, which explains the „brain drain“ from Germany to other countries, particularly to the U.S. Finally, the prospect of teaching in the U.S. was very attractive. The visiting professorship had given me an opportunity to

„test-drive“ the American system, and I generally liked it. Also, the position I was offered at the School of Journalism was and still is very interesting and close to my main research and teaching areas, i.e. media ethics, communication/media theory, and new media.

What significance did the partnership between Ohio and Leipzig have for you at that time?

Debatin: The partnership was very important and it facilitated the personal contacts. I met Bob Stewart in the early Summer of 1997 and was immediately excited about the idea to cooperate. We then started to set up collaborations among our students, using the Internet as both a communication tool and a test bed. Even though Internet audio and video were fairly unstable and rough at that time, our students were very enthusiastic. It was this experience of intercontinental and intercultural collaboration that sparked my interest in the possibility of teaching on the other side of the Atlantic ocean.

What would you define as a challenge or a stimulus for German lecturers to work in the U.S., particularly at the Ohio University?

In addition to the reasons given above, there were many incentives for a switch to OU: For instance, the atmosphere is very collegial and rather informal, and there is a strong emphasis on the quality of teaching. The student/teacher ratio at the School of Journalism is about 1 to 20, as opposed to the more than tenfold ratio at the KMW in Leipzig. I also had the opportunity to become a driving force in developing our new program in online journalism, which the School added to its sequences in 2003. Job security is another incentive. I received tenure in Spring 2004, which was the result of hard work, but also to some degree predictable. The tenure-track system has the advantage that a tenured position is both earned and also within the realms of possibility.

In Summer 2005, I became director of the honors program in our school, which is very rewarding, because it allows for close cooperation with very gifted and highly motivated students. There are certainly challenges, too. For instance, American students tend to think of themselves as customers, who pay high fees (tuition) to get a degree. This can lead to an undesirable attitude of entitlement among some students. It is not always easy to find a good balance between the German system, where students' needs are often grossly neglected, and the American system, which can be over-protective and too consumer-oriented. And in times of tight budgets and increased competition among universities, there is a tendency to spoon-feed students more than necessary, rather than challenging and nurturing their critical and intellectual abilities. To be fair, I have to add that the School of Journalism has fortunately not seen too much of this trend. Due to the good reputation of the school, we have a way more applications than we can admit, and thus we end up with a lot of very bright students.

What relevance does the relation between the University of Leipzig and the Ohio University have today?

As someone who has seen and lived through both sides of the partnership, I am a very strong supporter of it. I have been on the OLEC steering committee since I started working as a full-time professor at OU. I also know that journalism students from Leipzig are extremely happy about the opportunity to take classes at our school and to do their internship at our local broadcast media. And I know that our students very much appreciate the opportunity to study abroad. The OLEC program offers a very unique and highly valuable educational experience for our students, and it is very popular. I was program director of the first OLEC Summer program in 2002, and the feedback I received from that group of 19 students was extremely enthusiastic. For many students, this experience was an eye-opener and a first step to understanding our globalized, yet so divided world. What more could you wish for?