



## HAUS REGIONAL CHAPTER CHAIRPERSONS SEMINAR AND NATIONAL MEETING

30 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2022

Alumni from across the U.S., from Canada and from Heidelberg gathered in Denver, Colorado, in late September for the first in-person HAUS National Meeting since 2019. Although our group was “klein”, our time together was indeed “fein”.

We kicked off the weekend with dinner at Helga’s German Restaurant and Deli. Helga’s owner came to Denver from Bammental, a village not far from Heidelberg. So, the flavors of the Schnitzels and Curry Wurst took us all right back to Heidelberg!

Thanks to generous funding from the DAAD, we hosted our Regional Chapter Chairpersons at the Slate Hotel in Denver for a full-day leadership seminar. The Friday morning workshop was facilitated by a local career coach, who led the group through a series of questions and exercises, to identify individual strengths, learn about group dynamics and enumerate the unique challenges facing our Regional Chapters. (See our Chairs working together in a team-building exercise in the photos below.) We dug deeper into the specifics in the afternoon, to identify concrete areas for improvement. Five teams are working on action plans and are to report back in a month with their recommendations. Energy throughout the seminar was further fueled by Enstrom’s toffees, a special Colorado candy. Ganz lecker!





Everyone gathered on Saturday morning for updates on HAUS activities, the HAUS recent scholarship recipients, results of our recent member survey and a recap of the Friday leadership seminar. In addition, Marc-Philippe Weller, Vice-President for International Relations, shared the latest news from Heidelberg. To set the stage, he provided an overview of the development of our comprehensive university from 1386, with the four original Faculties in the Altstadt, to 13 Faculties spread across four different campuses today. Marc provided many diverse facts and figures on the student body, teaching and research faculty, support staff and funding. Attendees were particularly interested in the university's efforts toward gender equity and support for families within the university community. We also learned where HAUS and our New York office fit into the university's international programs and goals.

Tim Fischer and Laura Korn, Research Assistants and doctoral candidates in the School of International Law, reported on "International Research during a Time of International Crises", telling us about the challenges for German students during the Covid-19 pandemic and now the war in Ukraine. Their personal experiences sparked a lively discussion.



Our Saturday afternoon excursion took us outside Denver to visit Dinosaur Ridge, where a stegosaurus, among other dinosaur fossils, was discovered in 1877. We hiked there a tiny bit with a geologist guide and we learned a lot about the geology of the area, as well as the dinosaurs and other life forms that lived here millions of years ago. We also made a brief visit to Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater nearby, where our visit was cut short by a rainstorm. But, we got to see multiple rainbows on our drive through the rain back into Denver!







On Saturday evening, we gathered in the Denver Art Museum (DAM) to close out the weekend. The opening reception was sponsored by the American Junior Year (AJY) Program, the oldest exchange program of its kind in Germany. Martin Kley, AJY Resident Director, was present to offer his support and encouraging remarks. Attendees had access to the DAM's Western Art collection and also to the museum's rooftop terrace, which offered stunning views of the sunset over the Rocky Mountains. We all enjoyed the wonderful time in Denver and returned home with new ideas, energy and commitment for our Heidelberg University.

*Kathleen Lance, HAUS President*





