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Dear Alumnae!
Dear Alumni!

I do not envy professors of political science these days. Their established teaching is topsy-turvy the past months. Long established parties almost disappear, seasoned politicians are replaced by big-mouthed populists or young political shooting stars. Former elites are blamed for being worn out, corrupt, for aloofness and for having no strategies for the future. “More of the same? Not with us!”... voted the Americans, the French and – maybe soon – the Austrians.

Political science live! Surprising, sometimes shocking, and certainly not to everyone’s liking!

Tremendous changes are on the way and they leave us breathless!

The Club has been doing fine over the past months. Solid finances allow three scholarships to be granted, our career platform DA LINK has had its best performance, our events are well attended and our membership is rising.

I would like to convey my deep gratitude to all active members of ClubDA who have been supporting us over the years. And I invite all other DA alumni to join our family – your home & anchor after graduation. For more information please visit https://club.da-vienna.ac.at.

All the best and have a good summer!

Oliver Kitz

Oliver Kitz (DLG 19) is President of ClubDA.
On ClubDA’s initiative, the Club and the Diplomatic Academy co-organised the first “DA LINK – Mentor and Career Talks” on 18 June 2013. Since then, once a year the DA invites CEOs, department heads and human resources officials from highly renowned companies, organisations and institutions to come to the Academy and to sit down and talk with DA students about their career plans.

This year, DA’s Alumni Office relaunched the event. Students had the opportunity to register through an online tool for one-to-one talks with 25 companies and organisations taking part in DA LINK on 8 March. In the end, we were able to organise 541 (!) talks in total, surpassing numbers from previous DA LINKs by far.

The following companies and organisations were present at DA LINK 2017:
- Arthur D. Little Austria GmbH
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Austrian Power Grid AG
- BNL Clean Energy AG
- Federal Ministry of the Interior/Bundesministerium für Inneres (BMI)
- Caritas Österreich
- Centros de integración Juvenil (CIJ)
- Deutsche Bank AG
- Energy Community Secretariat
- Grayling Austria
- Horizont 3000
- International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Trade Centre (ITC, UN/WTO)
- Mercuri Urval Austria GmbH
- ORF R/TV Autrichienne, France News
- Pfizer Corporation Austria
- Teach For Austria
- U.S. Embassy in Vienna
- UNIQA Insurance Group AG
- Unique Public Relations GmbH
- U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- U.N. Office at Vienna (UNOV)/U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (WKO)
An online survey conducted after the event revealed highly positive feedback from both students and participating companies and organisations:

- **87.5** percent of HR representatives thought their participation in DA LINK to have been worthwhile.

- **100** percent (!) of HR representatives would recommend other organisations to take part in DA LINK and are themselves interested in participating again. Seven companies and organisations even signed up for 2018 already.

- On the other hand, **98.4** percent of students would recommend their peers to sign up for future career days at the DA.

- During DA LINK 2017, **6.3** percent of our students were offered a job, **26.6** percent an internship position and **14.1** percent a follow-up interview. In addition, **73.4** percent of participating students told us about having received valuable information.

**Future developments**

In October 2017, “DA LINK” will become the title of the entire Career Services the DA offers as the Academy’s Alumni Office will resume responsibility for this programme starting with the next academic year.

The DA LINK Career Day 2018 will take place on 13 March 2018. We ask all alumni to get in touch with companies and organisations who might be interested in taking part in this project and to inform us about possible participants at andreas.ehrmann@da-vienna.ac.at.

Andreas Ehrmann is Head of DA’s Alumni and Administrative Office as well as ClubDA’s Secretary General and, in addition, will become Head of DA’s Career Services this summer.
Originally from Austria, Christina Kauer holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Admirably, during her undergraduate studies Christina engaged in several volunteering activities in Austria. Not only did she act as a scout leader for young girls, but also as a teaching assistant for underprivileged children.

Moreover, her volunteering engagement continued in Romania. Christina was working for six months in a homeless shelter for young adults in Bucharest. It is this experience she describes as a very moving and inspirational one. Having to work with adults that were suffering under poor working and living conditions, Christina became more aware of the existing inequalities within the EU. Up until now she maintains a close relationship with the Austrian NGO that enabled her to make this valuable experience. This hard-working student even finds time to work in its Viennese liaison office.

Christina learned about the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna from the officials at the Canadian Embassy in Vienna where she served as an intern in the trade section. When asked why she had chosen the DA’s Environmental Technology & International Affairs MSc Programme (ETIA), the answer is the following: “It was the neglect of the environment in economics that prompted this decision.”

When completing her studies, Christina hopes to work either in the public sector or for an NGO. Christina expresses her deep gratitude for the ClubDA scholarship which released her of financial worries and allowed her to relax and to concentrate on her studies.

The author Apolonija Rihtarić is enrolled in the 53rd Diploma Programme at the DA and received one of three ClubDA Scholarships for the academic year 2016-17.
It was during orientation week in October, when I first met Christine. Her cheerful manner, openness and determination impressed me from the very beginning. I have the honor to present to you now an ambitious and inspiring young woman.

Christine was born and raised in Gresham, Oregon. Her family travelled a lot and was always pushing her to experience new cultures and places. At the suggestion of her parents, Christine completed a gap year between high school and college in southern Germany. As a result, when she returned to the U.S. to do her bachelor studies she started studying German language and journalism at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. During her senior year of undergrad, she participated in an exchange program called “IES Vienna” here in Vienna, Austria. As an alumna, she is still very involved with the IES program. In 2013, after concluding her exchange year graduation, Christine received a fellowship to be a U.S. Teaching Assistant with Fulbright Austria. For one year, she taught at the Pädagogische Hochschule in Vorarlberg. Back in the U.S., she started working in Government and Public Affairs in the maritime and defense industries in Portland, Oregon. The job combined her love of politics and journalism as she managed a team of lobbyists on projects for various departments and headed up crisis communication. Moreover, she underwent training to become a
Public Information Officer. Besides work, Christine always tried to give back to the community. She worked as a literacy tutor for kids to help improve their self-confidence and education through reading. When Christine was looking for a Master’s program and could not find one in the US that matched her interests, she remembered the partnership between Fulbright and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

Christine is now very happy having chosen the MAIS program at the DA as it fits perfectly with her career field and gave her the chance to come back to Austria and improve her German. She is a very involved student and incoming Editor-in-Chief for Polemics. As a wine lover (and of course member of the DA wine society), Christine tries to volunteer from time to time at a local winery to learn more about winemaking. She is the first one in her family to complete a Master’s program and worked hard during the past three years to try to fund her studies on her own. Therefore, the ClubDA Scholarship is one more step toward keeping her self-sufficient and she is very thankful for this opportunity.

Regarding her future plans, Christine wishes to continue in the career path in Government and Public Affairs. With her Master’s degree, she will be well equipped to move forward in her job and someday hopefully become a Public Information Officer.

The author Christina Kauer is enrolled in the 10th Master of Science in Environmental Technology and International Affairs (ETIA) programme at the DA and received one of three ClubDA Scholarships for the academic year 2016-17.
Originally from Croatia, Apolonija majored in Political Science from the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. During her undergraduate studies, she completed a six-month semester abroad program with Erasmus at the Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne (France) where she studied law and political science.

She then served as an intern with the civil society organization GONG in Croatia conducting research on the country’s electoral process during the 2015 parliamentarian and local elections. Additional tasks included working on topics related to democracy and good governance as well as ensuring civil democratic rights by receiving citizens’ complaints regarding the breach of electoral silence.

Additionally, in 2015 she participated in a two-month educational program with the United Nations Academy at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia. At the ministry, she learned about the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. She realized that attending such a prestigious multilingual program could improve her chances of working professionally in the Foreign Ministry.
However, it was during an internship with the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) the following year, that Apolonija realized how deep her interest in foreign policy was. Her work with AIES included drafting policy papers on security issues and conducting research on the EU neighborhood and security policies.

Thanks to the AIES internship, Apolonija hopes to work after graduation for the European Union, specifically within the foreign and security field. Later she hopes to return to Croatia to work as a diplomat with the Foreign Ministry.

However, school and work accomplishments aside, it is Apolonija’s personal character which makes her such a deserving candidate for the ClubDA scholarship. Friendly and open to everyone, she has great rapport among her colleagues. In an intimate program like the DA, reputation is well known and Apolonija’s is of the highest standing.

Apolonija is not just a dedicated DA student, but also a genuinely kind and caring person – character traits which are deeply needed in today’s political arena.

She’s extremely grateful for the ClubDA scholarship which allows her to relax, focus on her studies and achieve her career goals.

The author T. Christine Luby is enrolled in the 21st Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) programme at the DA and received one of three ClubDA Scholarships for the academic year 2016-17.
This year’s Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship awardee Katharina-Sophia Doležal is half-Austrian, half-Italian. She mainly grew up in Austria, but also in China and England. She worked for the Permanent Mission of Israel to the International Organizations for one year before entering the Diploma Programme and later MAIS. She speaks eight (!) languages (German, Italian, English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Hebrew). Her undergraduate studies were Chinese Studies and History of the Arts.

Impetus?
After working for the permanent mission of Israel, I considered changing my career path a bit and going more towards diplomacy and international relations. I considered the DA as a very suiting opportunity for me, completed the DLG and, thankfully, was able to do the MAIS on top of that.

Takeaway?
All the subjects and skilled professors here at the DA amazed me. I come from a totally different background and working in the international arena requires a certain set of tools and instruments you need for a successful career. The professors made the transition for all of us very easy and equipped us with a great toolset. But most importantly, it is really a family: It’s a very small school and the benefit of constant interaction with over 40 nationalities, a small UN so to say, was a worthwhile experience.
Scholarship?
I spent my scholarship for a field trip to Brazil to conduct research for my Master’s thesis, which is why I’m very grateful that I received this contribution. My topic was the non-medical use of prescription drugs in Brazil and prevention programmes that could be developed in order to decrease Brazilian students’ use of medication for studying purposes. I thought it to be a good idea to go to the country and speak to the people. In the end I conducted 33 interviews with the best experts on the matter in the country.

Suggestions for the network?
What could be done is organising an event especially for graduates, like a dinner. Although the alumni are always somehow involved with the manifold events here at the DA, it would be good to have “the event” where future graduates can easily get in touch with alumni. Furthermore, support for conducting research, as was the case for me, could be very helpful for the entire student body. To do field work is very costly, and such support could really enhance students’ research.

But after all, I really just want to thank the alumni for helping me so much with this amazing opportunity, it made my thesis way more dynamic. It was an unforgettable experience for me to go to Brazil. I might even now have the opportunity to publish an article there. The former Brazilian prime minister once said: Do what you do with a lot of passion and then you will succeed. The scholarship helped me in doing just that, and I could not be more grateful.

After graduation?
I do not have a job yet. I think talking to alumni is always a good opportunity to stay in touch, not only to network. When I went to Brazil, I was given a list of alumni working in Brazil and Brazilian alumni working in Vienna, which I could utilise perfectly. And when I did an internship with UNODC in Vienna, I got in touch with an alumna from an earlier class with whom I’ve become friends in the meantime. The alumni network is really more than a simple networking tool; it’s great to make new friends, to exchange perspectives and to receive valuable recommendations on how to approach the vast world of labour.

The author Nicholas Lieb is enrolled in the 10th Master of Science in Environmental Technology and International Affairs (ETIA) programme at the DA and Social Media Assistant at DA’s Alumni and Administrative Office.
Journalism offers valuable skills for today’s future diplomats. Chief amongst them is the ability to distil complex information and communicate with tact, integrity, and credibility.

POLEMICS gives DA students the chance to learn to critically examine research, draft articles, and manage an entire publication process from start to finish. Furthermore, by teaching how to produce factual journalism, it teaches students how to be intelligent consumers of the media.

To that end, the 2017-18 editorial team is excited to promote high-quality, objective journalism by continually improving our methods and offering more educational workshops to the student body. If you’d like to be a part of educating the next generation of journalists/diplomats, please contact us at dapolemics.editor@gmail.com. We welcome alumni support in any form.

Christine Luby is enrolled in the 21st MAIS Programme, Nicholas Lieb a student of the 10th ETIA Programme. They represent the editorial team of POLEMICS, the magazine of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.
Sustainability, resource management and development are common threads not only in our studies at the Diplomatic Academy, they also affect lifestyle choices.

The DASI Sustainability Committee therefore thinks globally and acts locally. This year we inter alia exchanged views with the chair of the Austrian Parliament’s Environment Committee, invited FairTrade Austria for a discussion and built garden beds at the DA.

The salads, tomatoes, herbs and other produce from the student garden benefit the resident community directly and also raise awareness for local food production.

Next year we will continue successful initiatives, raise awareness for sustainable lifestyle choices and hold a workshop on E-Waste. We would be happy about your participation and active support! If you or your organizations are interested in helping the efforts of the Sustainability Committee, please write to sustainability@da-vienna.at

Ansgar Fellendorf is enrolled in the 10th ETIA Programme and co-chairs the Sustainability Committee together with Stefania Marcucci, a student of the 21st MAIS Programme.
Our society deals with a sphere that, at the moment, tends to be underrepresented in the Diplomatic Academy: culture.

We provide information about cultural events to the students of all programs in a bi-monthly newsletter. Moreover, we organise multiple events, including the Flying Dinner as well as trips to cultural events in Vienna including theatre, cinema and art exhibitions. We also hope to start cultural trips elsewhere in Austria from September onwards.

In order to be able to provide, for example, entrance fees or to cover initial travel costs for trips outside of Vienna, we kindly ask for your help to be able to provide access to high quality cultural events, as well as to enhance awareness of soft power within the academy’s student body.

Jonas Bohun, Martinto Revertera and Stephanie Trapp are enrolled in the 21st MAIS Programme. They represent the Cultural Society of the Diplomatic Academy.

To get in contact with them at any time via e-mail:
jonas.bohun@da-vienna.at
martino.revertera@da-vienna.at
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Labelling „Europe under Pressure – The OSCE in a Complex Security Environment“, this year’s DASI Conference exceeded all expectations. Forty national and international experts discussed with more than 400 visitors from March 3rd to 4th. Seven panels ranging from the European Security Architecture to Cyber issues culminated in a final discussion on the possible future role of the OSCE. While Secretary General Lamberto Zannier focused in his keynote speech on the internal and external challenges the OSCE is facing at this point in time, the first panel discussed European Security and the various actors involved more generally. The spirited debate provided a broad overview of the challenges faced by the OSCE and exposed the underlying tensions within the security community.

The second panel, which dealt with current conflicts, gave an overview on the Ukrainian crisis and discussed its reasons and outlooks. The panelists offered different and sometimes opposing perspectives on the current situation in Ukraine and elaborated on the European security architecture.

“Shrinking Democratic Space” in Europe was the topic of the third panel. In the wake of rising nationalistic and populist movements, the panel stressed the positive developments and called for a meaningful participation of the young generation in politics despite recent authoritarian and nationalist trends in Europe.

Informed by the Austrian chairmanship, the fourth panel focused on “violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism”. The speakers covered several angles of the topic, namely how people are radicalized and what the OSCE and its participants can do about it.

The first day of DASICON 2017 was concluded by EP Vice President Ulrike Lunacek who emphasized the role of the European Union and potential for cooperation with the actors involved.
Saturday morning commenced with two amazing talks on relevant subtopics of the general agenda, namely economic warfare and the attribution of cyber-attacks. The second talk set the scene for the following panel on cyber security which offered a very lively debate on the fifth dimension of warfare after land, sea, air and space.

Energy security was discussed on panel six. Experts from the OSCE, the private industry and NATO debated different concepts and their implications. It became clear that a common definition does not yet exist which hampers cooperation to a certain extent.

Finally the panel on the OSCE in 2022 concluded with an overview of the previous debates. The experts thereby envisioned potential futures of the organization and its contribution towards European security in the years to come.

DASICON 2017 was broadcasted live on Facebook and had an overall reach of more than 58,000 people. Additionally the coverage on Twitter reached the top 3 on the Austrian hashtag ranking on both days.

We would also like to use this opportunity to once again thank our numerous cooperation partners, sponsors and supporters whose contributions made this great conference happen. Additional thanks go to the organization team who worked tirelessly throughout the whole year.

For further information you can find articles, videos and pictures on www.dasicon.org.

SAVE the date: DASICON 2018 – March 2nd and March 3rd, 2018

Hannes Pirker and Niels Pollmann are enrolled in DA’s 20th MAIS Programme (2015-17) and members of this year’s Conference Committee.
Background
As a DA alumna (28th DLG of 1991–93), I was appointed Deputy Director of the Academy by Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz last autumn. I previously headed the Department of EU Communications of the Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs; served as director of the Austrian Cultural Forum Paris; and was posted to the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. The DA has throughout provided a sound basis for my fulfilling career. I have become a passionate diplomat, active both in multilateral and bilateral affairs.

Fascination
What I love about the Academy is the small cosmopolitan world in the heart of Vienna you enter when you come through our doors. The whole world finds a home in the Diplomatic Academy, be it through the diversity of languages, cultures or political backgrounds. It is an enormous pleasure and a great privilege to contribute in whatever ways I can to this microcosm.

My tasks here at the Academy are manifold: on the one hand, as Deputy Director, I am responsible for management and a wide range of other matters. On the other, I serve as the Head of the Executive Programmes department. We prepare almost 700 international trainees annually with tailor-made trainings in areas of international relevance in cooperation with our partners. The target groups are primarily but not exclusively
young civil servants from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. With these trainings, we cover issues concerning EU relationships, economic activities, science and cultural diplomacy as well as skills trainings in areas such as communication, project and event management. But we also offer support in areas where young people may enhance their skills and knowledge, such as Social Media utilisation in diplomacy.

The Academy
Almost 200 highly motivated young adults with a broad range of international and academic backgrounds have chosen to study at the DA this year. We offer them an optimal educational package and constantly strive to maintain our excellent international reputation by maintaining the highest academic standards with some of the best lecturers to be found internationally. A good example of this is the EU Studies professorship we will share with the University of Vienna from next year onwards. At a time when Europe is at a major crossroads, it is especially important to have world-class lecturers here at the DA to teach students about the importance of the EU.

Alumni
Furthermore, we want students to continue viewing the DA as their alma mater and a springboard for their professional careers. I encourage all graduates of the DA to support the alumni network and to share their experience and networks with new members of ClubDA. In this context, I particularly welcome the DA LINK initiative, organised for the fifth time on 14 March 2017. A large number of international employers participated in this event, most of them represented by DA alumni. The event opened to our students many opportunities for professional careers. Events such as DA LINK are the perfect platform for our students to present themselves, and would not be possible without the full and willing support of our alumni. I am very much looking forward to meeting you personally at the Sommerfest, as well as at other professional or social occasions. I would be very happy to hear from you at any time – new ideas or thoughts regarding the DA are always very welcome.

Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger
Research field
I am a professor of politics and policy at the University of Virginia. My primary research focus is fiscal policy and budgeting. When I was accepted as a Fulbright fellow, I started to work comparatively in the field of European fiscal policy, on which I wrote a couple of books from an American point of view. For that matter, I completed a research fellowship funded by the government of Luxemborg to spend time studying the European Commission and its fiscal rules two years ago. The fellowship here at the Diplomatic Academy gave me the ample opportunity to follow up on this project.

Opportunities
The Fulbright fellowship is a very helpful step in my career, as it particularly demonstrates an accomplishment. In fact, all American universities value Fulbright fellowships very highly. And so I see it as a market distinction for myself. At the same time, it’s an opportunity for me to see how other universities teach, getting to know what is taught here and what students expect to be taught in order to support their career ambitions, which will help me in the work with my students back in the United States.
Students
I was very much impressed by the students. They are smart, they are international, equipped with tremendous personal skill sets and abilities, and it’s wonderful to teach students here. I have good students in the U.S., but they don’t have the international quality the Academy has.

Vienna
It’s fascinating to experience Vienna as the capital of an old Empire. It is, in its own way, very comparable to Washington, D.C., the capital of a contemporary Empire. The monarchy and how it is perceived gives you better understanding of today’s world. Getting to know the culture of Vienna is very rewarding, because I’ve been reading about it all my life and this is an opportunity to study this more personally, so I am trying to make use of the museums – there is always something new to discover. I encourage my students to do that too. Going to the museums, you can also learn something about American foreign policy, isolationism in particular. Vienna has been a wonderful experience and I want to thank the Academy for making my stay in the ‘Capital of Diplomacy’ worthwhile.
Strewn across the front page of newspapers and littered on News Feeds, Austria’s recent ban of the full-face veil in public places has been a hot topic for debate. Yet, Natalie Herold from the Austrian Foreign Ministry argues, it is just one of many examples where skewed media coverage eclipsed the real story.

Herold confronted the ban and other misconceptions about refugees in a talk entitled, “Dealing with the Refugee Crisis: Reflections on Refugee Integration in Austria”, held at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna on 25th April 2017.

The real story, according to Herold, is not the ban itself, but the newly introduced Integration Agreement which, for the first time, gives refugees the right to effective integration mechanisms and support throughout the challenging process. Having pooled skills from academic experts, practitioners and policy makers, this advancement is a huge stride forward in ensuring that effective integration becomes a reality.

“You need to be critical of what you read in the papers,” Herold said. “Life isn’t black and white and neither is the issue of integration.”

Media moguls have proved their power in moulding the attitude of the masses, engulfing outlets with misleading statistics and misconceptions that are rendered as fact. In a seminar organised by the Austrian Foreign Ministry and the International Peace Institute on Wednesday 10th May, experts and practitioners discussed this exact issue, hailing examples from British tabloids and
condemning the profit-driven motivation to “sell more papers than the truth.” Panelists spoke under Chatham House Rules – on the record but under condition of anonymity.

Much like Herold, they stressed the importance of “showing good examples and keeping all doors open.” When further probed for suggestions of how the media could transform its current hindering position into something more positive, sentiments of lost hope and complete lost confidence were rife within the discourse.

The negative effects of the media’s anti-refugee propaganda use are clearly quite obvious, but Herold also argues that even positive narratives can have undesirable effects and be equally damaging.

“We are raising expectations we can’t meet,” she said stressing that this is the most efficient way to anger the population. “The finger pointing starts. We need to manage expectations in a very thoughtful way.”

However, this begs the question: What stories should the media be telling? In contemplating this, we will be challenged to cut through the veil of blind acceptance, see the bigger picture and search for the real story. Furthermore, we must also question ourselves as to whether the media’s stance is a conscious one or a consequence of a bigger problem and a symptom of the rise of populism.

The development and implementation of integration policy is, by no means, an easy feat, according to Herold and her team. This dynamism coupled with inflammatory journalism does nothing to alleviate the pressure or offer clues to successful management of the situation, especially when there are so many variables involved.

“There is no standard or average refugee,” Herold said. “There is an unaccompanied minor from Afghanistan who has never seen the inside of a school and there is the highly educated Syrian who owned his own business. It doesn’t make policy making easier.”

The growing necessity of support for refugee integration in Austria since the beginning of the crisis is reflected in the increasing number of team members that are being assigned to Herold’s department, the Unit for Research, Knowledge Management and Integration Monitoring – a far cry from the two colleagues working on the project in 2010.

A larger integration task force will certainly help but there is still a long way to go, especially if the media storm of attacking, scapegoating and inciting of mistrust doesn’t stop completely.

“There are challenges ahead of us,” Herold said. “I can assure you, this is not the end of it.”

Sarah Henry is enrolled in DA’s 21st MAIS Program (2016-18)
Since ClubDA implemented its chapter strategy in spring 2009, eighteen local chapters have organised 202 alumni meetings in Vienna and around the world. More than 6,500 graduates and students as well as friends of the Diplomatic Academy took part.

Recently, the following meetings took place:

**28 December 2016:**
Warsaw Chapter Christmas Party and Commemoration


**10 January 2017:**
Berlin Chapter New Year’s Meeting

After 2014 and 2015, the Club’s Berlin Chapter organised its third New Year’s Meeting at Restaurant Felix Austria.

**16 January 2017:**
Frauen im Gespräch: Margit Fischer
(see article on page 30)

**28 January 2017:**
15th DA Ski and Snowboard Championships
(see article on page 29)
14 February 2017:  
Curling and Skating at Wiener Eistraum

20 DA alumni and students joined us for ice skating and curling at the “Wiener Eistraum” in front of Vienna’s city hall. The Club organised this event for the sixth time and thanks stadt wien marketing gmbh for its precious support.

28 February 2017:  
Bavarian Curling in Warsaw

This year, ClubDA’s Warsaw Chapter decided to organise its own “Bavarian Curling” event at Zimowy Narodowy in Warsaw.

2 March 2017:  
11th Alumni Hall of Fame Talk:  
Krieg und Frieden – gestern, heute, morgen

14 March 2017:
DA LINK 2017 (see article on page 4)

23 March 2017:
4th Vienna Chapter Stammtisch
ClubDA’s Vienna Chapter continued its “Alumni-Stammtisch” event series with a keynote from a private sector representative: Arno Dettlinger (DLG 20) has held different management positions in the Austrian oil and gas company OMV (Exploration & Production) in Vienna and Tripolis. As representative of a sector that is experiencing major challenges, ranging from political turmoil in strategically important regions, economic distress from fluctuating prices and public pressure on the traditional business model due to environmentally friendlier technologies, Mr Dettlinger provided first-hand insights into recent developments.

27 March 2017:
Alumni meet Students in Brussels
More than 30 alumni and students met at Moeder Lambic Fontainas on the occasion of the first-year student’s annual study trip to Brussels.

3 April 2017:
Alumni meet Students in Kiev
20 alumni and students met on the occasion of the student’s annual study trip to Ukraine.

25-27 May 2017:
10th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend: Semmering
(see article on page 27)

The Diplomatic Academy and ClubDA thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative and all other alumni, students and partners who made these events possible.

Please visit our website www.da-vienna.ac.at/alumni/events to see additional photos of recent meetings and find out more about upcoming events organised by the DA and ClubDA as well as its local chapters.
On the Corpus Christi weekend 2017, ClubDA organised its 10th Outdoor Weekend in Lower Austria’s and Styria’s Semmering region.

On Thursday, 25 May, the group followed the Semmering railway, the first mountain railway in Europe, from Klamm-Schottwien to Steinhaus am Semmering. During this 23 kilometres long hike, we enjoyed the impressive scenery of the Semmering region as well as Vienna’s “Hausberge” Schneeberg and Rax.

The next day a visit of the Fröschnitzgraben construction site of the new Semmering Base Tunnel was followed by a short hike through the poet Peter Rosegger’s “Waldheimat” Alpl.

A five-hour hike to the top of Stuhleck (1,782 metres) concluded the programme on 27 May.

We thank all participants for a memorable weekend!

The next ClubDA Outdoor Weekend will take place from 31 May to 2 June 2018. The venue will be announced early next year.
Alumni Meetings reviewed

10th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend: Semmering

Andreas Ehrmann
On 28 January 2017, 14 DA alumni and staff participated in the 15th annual DA Ski and Snowboard Championships, which the DA again had organised together with the Austrian Foreign Ministry as well as the „Club Diplomatie & Wirtschaft“.

The DA thanks all participants for making this ski trip such a successful and memorable event and hopes to see many of you again next year.

**DA Champions: Alpine Skiing Men**
1st Mathias HUMENBERGER, AUT, DLG 53
2nd Hannes PIRKER, AUT, MAIS 20
3rd Alexios SEIBT, AUT, MAIS 20

**Alumnae: Alpine Skiing Women**
1st Johanna LINDNER, AUT, DLG 51
2nd Klara MELBINGER, AUT, DLG 52
3rd Alena BAUR, AUT, DLG 50

**Alumni: Alpine Skiing Men**
1st Thomas PRASTHOFER, AUT, DLG 50
2nd Pirmin GETZNER, AUT, MAIS 18
3rd Ernst G. WALTER LANGMANN, AUT, DLG 7
4th Peter BERRY, GBR, DLG 50
5th Donatus KÖCK, AUT, DLG 14

**DA Kids**
1st Lukas KORNPROBST

**DA Faculty & Staff**
1st Andreas EHRMANN, AUT, Administration
2nd Markus KORNPROBST, GER, Faculty
sondern in dem sie sich als engagierte Kämpferin für Bildung und Kinderrechte, zum Beispiel als Vorsitzende des Vereins ScienceCenter-Netzwerk, bewährte. Sie stellt sich aber nicht alleine in das Zentrum der Ausführungen: Wenn Margit Fischer ihre Familiengeschichte erzählt, dann erzählt sie auch gleichzeitig die Geschichte Österreichs und Europas in dunklen Zeiten, die Geschichte einer Kindheit in Wien nach dem Krieg und die Geschichte der sich wiederfindenden und konsolidierenden Republik nach der großen Katastrophe. Sie erzählt über österreichische und internationale Politik, die sie über fünfzig Jahre lang an der Seite ihres Mannes beobachten konnte. Und sie spricht über ihre Gedanken zu gegenwärtigen Fragen und die Lehren, die sie aus ihren reichen und vielfältigen Erlebnissen zieht.


Die passionierte Bridge-Spielerin mit den großen Leidenschaften Reisen und Lesen war lange Jahre im Vorstand des ClubDA – zuletzt als Rechnungsprüferin – aktiv und immer gern gesehen bei den zahlreichen Events der DA.

Besonders wichtig war Heide ihre Tätigkeit für WELCOME TO AUSTRIA. Diese Vereinigung, die unter den Patronanz des österreichischen Außenministers steht, kümmert sich um Partner von Diplomaten, um ihnen den Start am neuen Standort Wien zu erleichtern, und fördert den interkulturellen Austausch. Heide gab jahrelang Neuankömmlingen Deutschunterricht.


Ernst Porpaczy ist Absolvent des ersten Diplomlehrgangs und ehemaliger Präsident sowie Mitglied des Wahlausschusses des ClubDA.
More than 1,300 alumni, students and friends of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna are currently members of ClubDA. While membership is free for students and young alumni, most of ClubDA’s other members pay an annual membership fee of EUR 40 (some forget about it from time to time).

And then there are members who have decided to contribute even more. Their voluntary donations are a main reason why ClubDA was able to increase the number of scholarships for current DA students recently. With this new DA News feature we would like to thank our patrons for their precious support over the years.

JANINE FINCK

Janine Finck, alumna of the 23rd Diploma Programme, is working at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. This year she has been designated to become the next Luxembourg Ambassador in Denmark, including non-resident postings in Norway, Finland and Sweden.

Which role has your academic training at the DA played in the context of your professional career?

My training at the DA helped me to understand even better international relations and the ways to solve crises. My time spent together with my fellow alumni is an invaluable souvenir from my formative life.

How do you remember your study time at the DA?

I remember my study time as a fruitful mix of serious study and research and also discovering the cultural and social riches of Austria.

Would you like to give some personal advice to recent graduates regarding their career paths?

They should always remember who they are and where they learned the valuable theory in order to put it into practice as best as they can. Today’s world is not an easy place to cope with. But do not give up hope and work hard!
You have been a member of ClubDA for many years. How do you personally benefit from your membership?
It helps me to keep being informed on what is happening in Vienna!

What has motivated you to support ClubDA with voluntary contributions additional to the annual membership fee?
I was motivated by the dreams of young graduates who have a clear sense of where they would like to head to and I was moved to try to help out a tiny bit. I had been very fortunate at my time in being helped and supported by my family all along, and I wanted them to have a similar feeling of support.

In your opinion, how could one motivate even more ClubDA members to help us with additional contributions?
I think that young, motivated people deserve a helping hand, and maybe I consider us elderly (and experienced) alumni as this helping hand in an increasingly challenging international environment.

DANIEL OSPELT

Daniel Ospelt, alumnus of the 18th Diploma Programme, currently holds the position of Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the Council of Europe and Representative to the Organs of the Council of Europe’s Development Bank (CEB) in Paris.

Which role has your academic training at the DA played in the context of your professional career?
It was very important as it was the precondition to enter the diplomatic service in Liechtenstein.

How do you remember your study time at the DA? I remember it quite well after so many years. And we had sometimes heated discussions (also about politics) in the special lecture hall on the other side of the Favoritenstrasse (smile). The only thing I regret is that I did not start to learn Arabic.

Would you like to give some personal advice to recent graduates regarding their career paths? Provide a vision, lead by example, admit your mistakes and learn from them, be humble, listen and learn – and never abandon your hope!
Let me quote Vaclav Havel: “Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty, that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”
You have been a member of ClubDA for many years. How do you personally benefit from your membership?

I never benefited personally in my career from the ClubDA membership but I was always following the activities closely.

What has motivated you to support ClubDA with voluntary contributions additional to the annual membership fee?

I know how it is to live only with little money. That’s why I want to help and give something back. Let me quote Desmond Tutu: “Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of goods put together that overwhelm the world!”

Did you receive a scholarship for your studies at the DA yourself?

I had a scholarship and in addition I got a grant from the Liechtenstein authorities, which I had to pay back. I financed my studies myself.

In your opinion, how could one motivate even more ClubDA members to help us with additional contributions?

We had the chance to graduate at the Academy and we should give others also the chance to do so! I kindly urge all graduates from the Academy to support the ClubDA!!!

MATT HOGGARTH

Matt Hoggarth, alumnus of the 39th Diploma as well as the 7th MAIS Programme, is Head of Research at Thesis Asset Management, an investment firm based in the UK. He is a CFA Charterholder and a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments.

Which role has your academic training at the DA played in the context of your professional career?

The multidisciplinary approach at the DA was a great preparation. Being able to cut across traditional subject boundaries is a huge advantage. When you can see the world from a variety of different perspectives, you are more likely to be able to find innovative ways to accomplish things.

How do you remember your study time at the DA?

I have great memories. It’s not just all the fascinating hours spent in Hörsaal 1 and the rich sense of history dating back to Maria Theresia. When I talk to my friends from the DA about our time there the word that comes up most frequently is family. All the staff and resident faculty of the DA cared deeply about us.
Would you like to give some personal advice to recent graduates regarding their career paths? Do not write off the private sector. We need good civil servants and international functionaries, but there are also lots of great opportunities to build careers in business. Companies are keen to recruit graduates with the skills that the DA nurtures.

You have been a member of ClubDA for many years. How do you personally benefit from your membership?

1 enjoy maintaining a link with the DA and hearing news about new developments – and I try to come to the Sommerfest as often as I can.

What has motivated you to support ClubDA with voluntary contributions additional to the annual membership fee? Life can be tough for students and it’s a great pity if any able candidates are prevented from studying at the DA because of their financial situation. If I can play a small part in helping others to have the same advantages that I enjoyed then that is very satisfying.

Did you receive a scholarship for your studies at the DA yourself? I’m very grateful to have been awarded an Austrian National Bank scholarship for the MAIS.

In your opinion, how could one motivate even more ClubDA members to help us with additional contributions? I think by continuing to foster that sense of a DA community around the globe and across the generations we can remind people of the benefits we have all shared from studying at the DA and the possibility of extending those to more students in the future.

Maximilian Huck joined the Diplomatic Academy’s staff in April 2017 and is working both for the Alumni and Administrative Office as well as the Executive Programmes Department.
Since 1969, ClubDA serves the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna’s alumni as “Your home & anchor after graduation.” In 2009, DA’s own alumni office joined the Club in supporting the ever-growing global network of graduates from the Academy’s academic as well as Executive Programmes.

This June, we asked our alumni for their take on our efforts. We, DA and ClubDA, invited you to complete our online questionnaire and tell us what you think of our alumni services and benefits.

While the full results of the survey will be published in the next issue of DA News, find here some preliminary results based on the answers from 151 alumni who have participated in the survey by the editorial deadline of DA News 1/2017.

In what types of meetings are you interested? (1=very interested, 4=no interest)

- International Alumni Meeting (Sommerfest and excursion)
- Informal get-togethers organised by ClubDA’s local chapters
- Talks and (panel) discussions
- Alumni-Students meetings (Meet and Greet in Vienna, study trip meetings,...)
- Arts and culture (exhibitions, theatre,...)
- Excursions, study trips
- Sports (Ski Championships, Outdoor Weekends)
Would you recommend other alumni to participate in DA’s and ClubDA’s alumni meetings?

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<th>Response</th>
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Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with the information/responses you receive from DA’s alumni office staff? (0 = fully satisfied, 100 = not satisfied)

Ergebnis: 15.33

How satisfied are you with ClubDA’s services and benefits? (1=very satisfied, 4=not satisfied at all)

- ClubDA webmail http://webmail.da-vienna.at
- ClubDA web portal https://club.da-vienna.ac.at
- DA News
- Alumni contact details database
- Local chapter contacts
- ClubDA Notice Board
- Reduced rates on language courses at the DA
- List of job vacancies
Please sort the following ClubDA goals (as stated in the Club’s statutes) by importance

(1 = most important, 6 = least important)

1 2 3 4 5 6

Support of the alumni of the DA (career services, networking) ..............................................
Support of the DA (academic and scientific cooperations, research and teaching) .......................
Support of the students of the DA (scholarships, career services, networking) ............................
Organisation of social gatherings ....................................................................................................... 
Organisation of talks and discussions covering DA’s academic fields .............................................
Publication of a periodic newsletter .....................................................................................................

Generally speaking, how satisfied are you with your ClubDA membership and the Club’s work?

(0 = fully satisfied, 100 = not satisfied)

Ergebnis: 27,65

Nicht weniger als 46 Nationalitäten waren in diesem akademischen Jahr an der Akademie vertreten, was den internationalen Charakter der DA einmal mehr unterstreicht. Die Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Union waren dabei 165 mal und somit am stärksten repräsentiert.

**Studierende nach Lehrgängen**

- DLG 53: 2
- ETIA 9/2: 19
- ETIA 10/1: 18
- MAIS 20/2: 13
- MAIS 21/1: 19
- PhD 1: 2

**Studierende nach Regionen**

- Europäische Union: 165
- USA & Kanada: 12
- UdSSR-Nachfolgestaaten: 6
- Asien: 26
- Lateinamerika & Karibik: 5
- Südosteuropa: 16
- Afrika: 16
- Australien & Ozeanien: 19
- Westeuropa: 8

*... Die genannten Nationalitäten summieren sich auf 237, da 31 Studierende mit Doppel- oder Mehrfachstaatsbürgerschaften berücksichtigt sind.
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*Andreas Ehrmann is Head of DA’s Alumni and Administrative Office.*
ON THE CALENDAR ...

August 2017 9th Vienna Summer Meeting at Schweizerhaus
September 2017 Firstspaziergang at Vienna’s Stephansdom
October 2017 Grape harvest and visit of the exhibition “The Magic of the Ancient Orient” at Schloss Halbturn
December 2017 St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet with new students at the DA
December 2017 Alumni meet students in Brussels
Jan / Feb 2018 16th DA Ski and Snowboard Championships
Jan / Feb 2018 Wiener Eistraum
24 February 2018 DA Charity Ball 2018
2-3 March 2018 DASICON 2018
13 March 2018 DA LINK Career Day 2018
31 May–2 June 2018 11th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend
29–30 June 2018 20th International Alumni Meeting in Vienna with ClubDA General Assembly, DA Sommerfest and the traditional Alumni Excursion

For exact dates and additional events including interesting talks by DA alumni in Vienna as well as alumni meetings organised by ClubDA’s local chapters please check out our online event ca-