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Dear fellow Alumnae and Alumni!

Early spring 2013 has brought along national and provincial elections in our neighbourhood! In Italy “cruel” measures against the state deficit have deeply frustrated and disillusioned the middle class. Totally disappointed with the political cast pressing them into a “new poverty”, Italians voted against the political establishment. Berlusconi popped up as saviour directing the way to nostalgic “good old days”, or Pepe Grillo, a comedian, was voted for promising to send all politicians responsible for stifling rigidity to the Orcus ...

In Austria’s southernmost province Carinthia, Italy’s northern neighbour, political frustration turned a new page in politics. Anger about mismanagement, corruption and political hubris led to an, in this dimension, unexpected house-cleaning. The long-time ruling FPK lost more than half of its voters and the Social Democrats and the Green Party were swept into power. Voters have chosen a clear majority for a new start with less short-lived superficial glamour, but hopefully a long-lasting recovery of Austria’s poorest province.

While Europe’s politics swings between frustration-born “nihilism” in Italy and a sober restart in Carinthia, the Academy continues its successful way. Despite increasing competition, the Diplomatic Academy regains international recognition and enjoys constantly growing student applications. Hans Winkler was appointed director for four more years, thus guaranteeing continuity and stability.

And also our ClubDA is doing well! Membership is growing to an all-time high of 1,087 members in 2012 and retention is high. The growing budget (see diagram) allows us to be more generous with our two scholarships and the integration of a student into the ClubDA’s board has proven positive. The line between alumni and students is crossed again and again in a fruitful exchange of curiosity and experience.

May we all have a beautiful spring!

Mag. Oliver Kitz is President of ClubDA.
The ClubDA scholarship provides a great platform for the forming of friendships between students who are not necessarily from the same batch and class. It gave me the wonderful opportunity to meet Karin Nardo, a second year MAIS student and we sat down a few weeks ago to have a little chat for me to get to know her.

Karin was born in Bratislava in Slovakia during the waning years of the cold war. Her family moved to a small town called Legnago, in the north east of Italy, when she was five. She grew up and attended high school there while spending her summer holidays in Bratislava where her mother comes from. For her, one of the positives of living in Vienna now is that it is only a half hour car ride away from Bratislava where some family friends still live. She finds it great that she can go back to the city often, as she misses ‘Slovak food and people’. She has dual citizenship, and despite having grown up in Italy and Slovakia, she ‘doesn’t feel Italian or Slovakian, but European’. She speaks an array of languages – Italian, Slovak, English, Spanish, French and German – and feels she would be comfortable in any part of Europe.

Karin obtained her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in International Studies and Diplomatic Relations from the University of Trieste, in Gorizia. Located on the border of Italy and Slovenia, Gorizia has a vibrant multicultural community with students from Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and other European and Balkan countries. During her studies there, she interned at the Swiss Consulate in Trieste and had a ‘lovely time in the city which has great cross border relations with neighboring Slovenia, and very friendly and open-minded people’.

She decided to further her interest in Diplomatic studies by attending the Diploma program here at the DA. When asked on how it feels to be living in Vienna she replied ‘just like home’ as she still has memories of visiting the city with her parents, and has always loved it. Life at the
Karin Nardo: a portrait

Aditi Ramola

DA has been wonderful; she particularly enjoys the multicultural environment and the opportunity that she has had to meet many people from diverse backgrounds. ‘The DA is even more multicultural than my previous University’ reveals Karin. In fact she is so pleased with her choice of school that she decided to stay on at the DA for the second year of the MAIS program.

Karin is currently interning with the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). She enjoys the work and has fantastic colleagues. The internship has given Karin the opportunity to organize and be part of a conference at the IACA. In the future she would like to pursue a career in the diplomatic service, but for now Karin is interested in law enforcement and the fight against corruption. Inspired by the adverse examples in the international arena she wants to ‘contribute to the development of a negative attitude towards corruption’. After graduating from the DA she hopes to find a job in one of the international organizations, preferably in fields pertaining to the upholding of the rule of law, law enforcement, or the fight against corruption. She is looking forward to contributing with her ‘enthusiasm and knowledge to the best practice of international relations’. In the long run, however, she is leaning towards a future in diplomacy. Karin feels that she has a ‘diplomatic attitude’ and therefore sees as ideal for herself the job of a diplomat, or alternatively, working in the European External Action Service. With this interest in mind, she is writing her thesis on EU foreign policy, which was also the topic of her final presentation for the Diploma program.

At present Karin is busy with her internship, writing her thesis, and her part time job at a Greek restaurant. But when she can find the time for it she enjoys listening to music, particularly while jogging. ‘I relish good food and wine, the company of great friends and Italian summer evenings’, says Karin with a smile. She also loves to travel and has been to a lot of places around the globe. She has visited places in the Middle East, North Africa, Central America, China and Europe and jokes that she has been ‘constantly packing suitcases’ for the past seven years. Karin is not very particular about where she lives in the future, as she sees herself as a ‘citizen of the world’ and would be open to any adventures that life brings her way.

Aditi Ramola is enrolled in the 6th Master of Science in Environmental Technology & International Affairs (ETIA) program at the DA and received the ClubDA Scholarship for the academic year 2012-13.
I am really grateful to the ClubDA Scholarship, and for the opportunity that it gave me to meet Aditi. Often the every-day routine and various commitments do not allow us to get in touch with so many interesting people who are living and studying around us. A MAIS 2 and an ETIA 1 student that otherwise would probably not have had the chance to get to know each other, were brought together.

During our first meeting I immediately realized that I could learn something new from Aditi and from her background; especially one that is so different from mine. She was born and raised in India until the completion of her undergraduate studies. She attended high school in the south of India but spent most of her summer and winter holidays in a tiny town nestled deep in the Garhwal Himalayas, in the north of India, the land of her parents’ origins.

During her formative years, in school she found herself in an environment of creative freedom and dialogue in alignment with the vision of its founder, the insightful philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti. He emphasized a constant inquiry into the human condition, the nature of human existence and man’s relationship to the earth. It was during discussions with students and teachers, that the holistic, non-reductionist paradigm that underlies much of Aditi’s thinking, slowly took form. Lectures by eminent visiting speakers such as M.S. Swaminathan, the world renowned environmentalist Vandana Shiva and professors from Schumacher College who introduced the students to Gaia Theory, contributed in shaping her worldview. Furthermore, growing up in close proximity to nature instilled in her a deep attachment and appreciation for nature that is untouched by man.

After completing a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science in India she moved to the U.S. to pursue a master’s in the same field. Aditi is deeply convinced that living in a different country and meeting people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds was a greatly enriching experience. Upon graduation she worked for a few years as an IT analyst. This role was challenging and enjoyable, but at the same time she felt a ‘restlessness inside’; an urgent necessity to better understand the social, economic and political factors that shape our world. Elaborating upon this she adds, ‘I have come to realize that a meaningful understanding and resolution of any problem - social, economic, environmental or political - can never be based on a fragmentary approach that isolates only one aspect of the
The interdisciplinary nature of the ETIA program focuses on discussing the relationship between the political, economic and environmental nature of the problem. This is what attracted me to the program.

After the U.S. the next step was presented by Vienna. Attending the Diplomatic Academy allows Aditi to continue her studies in a multicultural setting with classmates coming from various countries and diverse backgrounds in a synergetic environment. Seeing an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, Aditi considers such experiences ‘invaluable and indispensable’. She says, ‘I have inspiring classmates and despite knowing them for only half a year, we have developed deep friendships’. Also for this reason she enjoys living in Vienna, and the ‘fact that it is small enough that one can be on the hills outside in 30 minutes’ makes it a unique city and one of the aspects she appreciates the most.

The environment and policies that relate to it have always been of a great interest to Aditi. Her parents’ home is situated 50km upstream from the Tehri dam, which is the highest in India and has a capacity to supply 1000MW of power to a large part of the north of India. Despite its ostensible technical and economic advantages, the building of the dam brings with itself numerous negative consequences. It has led to the displacement of a huge local population, the ecosystem surrounding it has been negatively affected and there remain several concerns regarding the safety of the population living downstream in an event of a major earthquake. The dam is located in a region of high seismic activity as it lies on a major geologic fault line and it was built despite massive protests from local and national groups expressing environmental concerns. ‘This always made me wonder about the policies that facilitated its execution and about the choice of alternative sources of energy that exist’ says Aditi. Inspired by examples such as these she became increasingly interested in learning the way governments discuss and implement their policies.

After the ETIA program she aspires to work in the area of research and implementation of sustainable environmental technologies. ‘Despite being an overused buzzword, ‘sustainability’ is a key-concept when addressing many of the crises that we face today’ she says. She hopes to intern in the area of environmental research during the summer which will allow her to build a future career in the field.

Finally, Aditi enjoys going for long walks in the woods, doing yoga, and visiting new places. There is not much time during the term, she says, but whenever she gets a chance she likes going out of the city even if it’s just for a bit.

Karin Nardo is enrolled in the 16th Master of Advanced International Studies (MAIS) program at the DA and received the ClubDA Scholarship for the academic year 2012-13.
Mara Pfneisl and Kristian Jachnowitsch in 2011-12, Karin Nardo and Aditi Ramola in 2012-13 – four extremely talented and promising DA students who were able to proceed with their studies with financial help from ClubDA.

Right from its start in 1969, the Alumni Association of the Diplomatic Academy set as one of its main goals the support of the next generation of DA students. Over the following decades, students in immediate financial need applied for and received ad hoc scholarships.

When the Club’s 2011 General Assembly approved of the board’s proposal to introduce a permanent ClubDA scholarship programme, a new era of cooperation between alumni and students had begun. Since then one MAIS and one ETIA student respectively have been awarded ClubDA Scholarships every academic year.

ClubDA thanks its members for their invaluable support. Without your yearly membership fees and additional donations, the Club would not be able to give this precious aid to current DA
students – EUR 2,500 each for the two 2012-13 scholarships.

Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship

In order to strengthen the bond between the members of the DA Alumni Hall of Fame on the one hand side and the DA as well as its students on the other, DA’s director Hans Winkler suggested in 2012 the introduction of scholarships funded by members of the Alumni Hall of Fame. The project aims at supporting excellent DA students in financial need.

The number and amount of the tendered scholarships depend on the amount of donations made by the members of the DA Alumni Hall of Fame. Successful applicants will be informed about the sponsors of their scholarships and, if organisationally possible, a meeting between sponsors and students receiving the scholarship(s) will be arranged. Provided their consent, sponsors will furthermore be announced on the website of the Diplomatic Academy.

So far, EUR 3,750 have been donated by Hall of Fame members. The DA expresses its deep gratitude to those who already did participate in this initiative.

The first Hall of Fame Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the beginning of the academic year 2013-14.

Setterberg Scholarship

Last but definitely not least, it is a pleasure to mention the Setterberg Scholarship as well. In the wake of the first Hall of Fame Scholarship mailing, a private sponsor announced their willingness to fund one initial and in the future up to two full scholarships (EUR 11,000 for the academic year 2012-13) per year.

One more time, the DA is happy to convey its deep gratitude for this extremely generous support of our current and future students.
An interview with Dr. Dieter Kovar, alumnus of the 19th Diplomlehrgang. Dieter Kovar was born in Upper Austria, he studied chemistry at the Technical University in Graz, and joined BASF for a long-time career after a short political interlude as assistant to Minister Norbert Steger.

DA News: Dear Dieter, you are one of the DA alumni who went into corporate business and succeeded working for a major international player. Which were your first steps after the academy?

Dieter Kovar: After graduating from the Academy I joined the Ministry of Trade and Industry as secretary to Minister Norbert Steger. It was fascinating for me to watch politicians and see how they want to get to or to stay in power. I realized that politics is nothing for the faint-hearted and fairness is often not considered as a true value of human behaviour. Besides, it was fascinating to join the Minister on his visits to Downing Street 10 or to the Kremlin. After all, I realized that most politicians just “cook with water” as everybody else.

Were you very disappointed after the political treason in Innsbruck and the abrupt end of your political “career”?

On the way back from the party convention in Innsbruck (the “night of the long knives” as it was called), where the national wing of the FPÖ started to dominate the scene, I realized that I am a member of the wrong party and started the same night drafting exit scenarios from my current position. At that stage I was of course extremely disappointed, but on the other hand crisis situations like that one facilitate change and allow us to jump to our next performance level.
An Interview with ... Dieter Kovar  Oliver Kitz

Was there an emotional hangover after the days of Innsbruck?
There was lots of uncertainty at that stage in my life, as I was almost one year without any employment. The positive aspect of these days was that you start fighting for something new in your life and get more resilient to backlashes.

How did you reorient yourself, what made you go to Germany?
As I was a chemist by education I got back to my roots and started applying for jobs at various chemical companies. BASF in Ludwigshafen made me an attractive offer and I joined the company through a marketing leadership program. Already after two years I got desperate with many issues and asked for a delegation, which brought me to Japan for five years. My one-year research stay at the University of Kyoto during my studies in Graz has eased this decision (Nihongo muzukashi desu nee!) by BASF. My Japanese language skills fortunately were not tested before the decision-making!

Rheinland-Pfalz is known for its wine and Gemütlichkeit. Was it easy to feel at home for you and the young family?
I have to say when I came to Ludwigshafen I organised many parties with other newcomers to the company and that situation reminded me of the great time we had at the Diplomatic Academy: a good combination of lots of work and lots of fun. As I thought at that time that I can conquer the world, I asked for another change soon.

I am sure BASF is a maze. Was it difficult for you to find your way into this multifaceted structure – from the career perspective, from the human perspective etc.?
Anybody who joins a 100,000 employees company struggles to find his way, which was exactly my problem during the first two years. Only by getting to know the people, the culture, the way of doing business, the decision-making processes etc., you can define your own and finally authentic way.

Name some surprising factors in your career.
Surprising to me is – looking back 25 years now – that the leadership styles of people in Germany, Japan, Singapore and South Africa are quite similar. If you treat people like you want to be treated, leadership requirements are somehow universal.

From left: Jacques Delmoitiez, BASF SE President; Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate from Kenya; and Dieter Kovar
Name some positive elements.
One of my greatest experiences was to launch the gasoline additive “Keropur”, a product that keeps engines clean, in China.
Over a Chinese duck and some strong liquor in a Beijing restaurant we created a Chinese name that sounded very similar to Keropur and meant “Happy Running”. Unforgettable evenings!
Over the past 14 months we have opened the two offices BASF East Africa in Kenya/Nairobi and BASF West Africa in Nigeria/Lagos. It was amazing to watch how positively we were welcomed by the local business as well as politics.
My current job as head of the region of South Africa and Sub-Sahara provides me with great satisfaction beyond the business aspects, since I can help improving the living standards of the people through innovation and chemical solutions.
Over the past years we have trained thousands of kids of previously disadvantaged schools in South Africa by touring with our Kids Lab (chemistry lab) all across the country.

Name some negative aspects that you needed to face.
In all big organizations you have to be aware that it is not just performance that moves you in your career, it is also the network you shape for yourself. The earlier you realize this, the better for you.

Do you have advice for juniors at the beginning of their career in a similar situation?
Try to combine professional attitude with fun. Work hard, be resilient. Be humble and stay human whatever you do.
Dieter, many years later you are now living and working in South Africa. Tell us about your expectations in the beginning and daily life now. As only very limited time was given to me to come to a decision whether I wanted to take up the responsibility in South Africa or not, there was not much time for expectations. Overall I can say that Africa is a fantastic continent and I feel strong emotions and commitment towards it. Unfortunately, my family did not join me from the beginning, but in the meantime my son has been studying in Pretoria for three years now. My daughter has recently started studying in Vienna and my wife shuttles between Vienna, Bodensdorf/Carinthia, Bad Dürkheim and Johannesburg.

How did you manage family and career? The managing of family and career with many geographical moves over time went well because my wife Otti quickly accommodated and adjusted to new situations. Whenever I confronted her with a move to another continent she responded, “Let’s do it”. In the era of Skype, things have further eased.

Are you happy? I am happy, but my engine for growth continues running.

Would you follow the same path again? As a chemist from Styria, educated in Upper Austria, the Diplomatic Academy was a milestone in my life and opened up the world and its fascinations to me.
What do you still remember from the good old days at the Academy?
I will never forget the diversity of nationalities and the ease with which we cooperated beyond any barriers. In our small world we lived the United Nations – in an inclusive manner – successfully.
Of course I will never forget our wild parties in the basement and Inge Turek’s very strict watching over us. And of course we always behaved like future ambassadors!

Are you still in contact with some of the old gang?
I am still in contact with Oliver Kitz, Mr Charmeur number one in Vienna; Martin Tilley (Martini Gansl); the very busy businessman Utz Greiner; Ambassador Thomas Nader, who writes the most informative and longest letters once a year; and Elhadj As Sy, who I met several times in Kenya.

Where will be home one day?
Good question, but not yet decided!

Where is home for your children?
When Austria plays soccer against Germany, my daughter complains about not knowing exactly who she should be in favour of.
This demonstrates a bit the inner dispute about nationalities. As my kids Julian and Lisa, both born in Japan, have spent most of their time outside of Austria, they probably feel more like Germans or better like Palatinates.
Currently Lisa’s home is Vienna and Julian’s home is Pretoria.

Thank you, Dieter!

Oliver Kitz ist Präsident des ClubDA

Once a year, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna is transformed into a festive ballroom hosting its annual Charity Ball, a special highlight of the academic year. This traditional ball is a harmonious fusion of Viennese ball traditions and the cosmopolitan spirit of its guests.

With the theme for this year’s ball "Un Ballo in Maschera – Venetian Nights", we will be reminiscing the Renaissance era and the charm and romance of the Venetian night.

The proceeds of this year’s Charity Ball go to "Unity of Women Friends – SOMKI Project". UWF is a Tanzanian organisation that works to provide and facilitate life changing support to women. Its SOMKI Project works in supporting girls from orphanages and families in need, by paying for their school fees, by providing clothing, school supplies and by securing their livelihood.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Diplomatic Academy’s 2013 Charity Ball. Let us spend a truly exquisite and memorable evening together!

DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY CHARITY BALL 2013
to be held at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna
27th April 2013

Guest of Honour
Ambassador Dr. Johannes Kyrle
Secretary-General of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

8 p.m. Doors open – Welcome drinks
9 p.m. Official opening ceremony
   Welcome remarks by
   Ambassador Dr. Hans Winkler,
   Director of the Diplomatic Academy
12 a.m. Midnight show, Quadrille

Music provided by “pt art Orchester Linz”
Tombola, classical live music, disco, lounge

Dress code: Black tie/ball gown; masks for ladies

For further information and ticket reservation
Please visit our website:
www.da-vienna.ac.at/ball
Or contact:
bball.reservation@da-vienna.ac.at
Take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons. You will find it is to the soul what a water bath is to the body.” In the spirit of these words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, students of the Diplomatic Academy have started to gather regularly over the last two years in order to practice the universal language of mankind. Uniting people from all over the world in a choir gives us the chance to explore the authentic music of all our cultures and foster mutual understanding and solidarity. We subscribe to the view of Venezuelan economist and musician José Antonio Abreu who asserts that music has to be recognized as an agent of social development in the highest sense because it transmits the highest values - solidarity, harmony and mutual compassion.

According to Warren G. Bennis, widely regarded as a pioneer of contemporary Leadership studies, leaders must encourage their organizations to “dance to forms of music yet to be heard”. In this vein, the philosophy of the Chorus Musica Favorita includes the principle that every member should introduce music from their home country or region and help us gain an insight into their culture as we learn it. There is a saying that, once music is admitted to the soul, it becomes “a sort of spirit which never dies”. It has been fascinating to see this proven true: on several occasions a single song has sparked someone’s interest in a particular culture and laid the foundation for a more thorough academic and artistic exploration of it subsequently.

The name Chorus Musica Favorita was chosen during a joint breakfast with students and Director Hans Winkler in Tirana during the Balkan trip in 2012. Director Winkler suggested this name, which suits the choir in many ways. Not only does it contain a reference to the old hunting lodge “Favorita” which today harbours the Theresianum, but it also alludes to the repertoire of the choir, which includes favourite songs
of many cultures in the world. In fact we have performed in a challenging array of African and European languages as well as Latin American Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Kazakh.

The choir is open to everybody and we have welcomed a number of people to whom performing as singers was completely new. Luis Alberto Vargas Rojas from Nicaragua for example managed to develop a shining and resonant bass voice within one year and became a pillar of support to the choir community. Before leaving Vienna for his own country, Luis assured me that he would join a choir as soon as he arrived home.

Since our founding in October 2011, Chorus Musica Favorita has performed on numerous occasions, including international conferences, a Chinese New-Year celebration, Charity events by the Kazakh Student Initiative and at the Christmas Extravaganzas and graduations of the Diplomatic Academy. We opened our season in October 2012 with our own concert at the Celebration Hall of the 15th District and went on to perform at the United Nations Women’s Guild International Festival Bazaar as well as at the Charity Concert of the International Music Education Network (IMEN) in December 2012. In January 2013 we sang for the Luxembourgish-Austrian Society in Vienna as well as for an award presentation to Viennese citizens. As time goes by we are becoming increasingly involved in the local life in Vienna, which allows our singers to make the acquaintance of a wide range of people who enrich their professional as well as personal lives.

In the end, the combination of international studies with the field of music has proven to be fruitful. Bearing in mind that “the truest expression of a people lies in its dance and music”, singing constitutes a worthwhile challenge for every diplomat who wishes to foster their understanding of multiple cultures and thereby become a better communicator. While the power of words is limited, “music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.” The choir once assisted at a conference during which feelings ran high as participants expressed their differing views. Once the discussion had come to a dead end, the choir performed a song which seemed to remind everybody of what was really important: that even though we may have varied opinions and mindsets and a different past, these elements can nevertheless all join together into one human symphony.

Philippe Ternes is Graduate of the MAIS Programme and Conductor of the Chorus Musica Favorita.
rigent der Mährischen Staatsphilharmonie. Neben seiner langjährigen Lehrtätigkeit an der Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien – als ao. Univ.-Prof. für Interpretation und Aufführungspraxis Neue Musik – war Burwik in diesem Bereich auch international tätig (Santiago de Chile, Bozen, Caracas, Havanna, Dartington).

Du hast 1971 das „ensemble xx. jahrhundert“ gegründet und bist seither nicht nur dessen musikalischer Leiter als Dirigent, sondern auch dessen Organisator, verantwortlich für die Konzertplanungen, Aufführungsorte und vor allem inhaltlich für die Programme. Was war und ist Dir dabei das Wichtigste?

Das Neue. Werke, die nicht Dekoration sind, sondern aussagekräftig, immer in Bezug auf die jeweilige gesellschaftliche Entwicklung. Der gängige Kulturbetrieb ist ökonomisch orientiert und nach Marktkriterien organisiert. Das Publikum weiß schon, was es erwartet, es gibt einen Wiedererkennungswert. Die eigentliche Kulturproduktion ist per se innovativ, unser Publikum ist neugierig – wie wir.

Du findest immer wieder neue Komponisten, neue Stücke und vor allem auch neue, talentierte Musiker, wie machst Du das?


Ich war am Institut für Komposition und bildete Konzertfach-Studenten aus; ich hatte eigentlich mit der pädagogischen Ausbildung nichts zu tun. Mein Ausbildungsziel war, dass Komponisten parallel zum Kompositionsunterricht lernen, die Tauglichkeit des verwendeten (eigenen) Materials zu überprüfen. Musik muss nachvollziehbar sein,


Ist Musik eine universelle Sprache, eine „Sprache, die man durch die ganze Welt versteht“, wie Joseph Haydn meinte?

Nein, Musik ist gebunden an die jeweilige Kultur. Durch Austausch kommt es zu einem wechselseitigen Vermitteln von musikalischen Ergebnissen. Man kann inhaltliche Kriterien nicht ohne weiteres begreifen oder werten, nur die rudimentäre Oberfläche zunächst erkennen. Im akademischen
Bereich wird Musik als Kunst betrachtet und unterrichtet.

Eine Deiner Forderungen ist ein „Haus für neue Musik“ in Wien. Kannst Du dazu noch näheres sagen?
Wichtig ist, zur Kenntnis zu nehmen, dass Leute, die sich mit Musik und Kunst beschäftigen, alerte, kritische, gesellschaftlich bewusste Menschen mit Intelligenz sind, nicht Behübscher und Unterhalter. Sie sind ein Seismograph der Gesellschaft.

Brigitta Blaha ist Vizepräsidentin des ClubDA.
It was on account of and during my studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna that I decided to foster my career interests on the fusion of international economics and security. Indeed, those studies inspired my future professional and academic choices. In 2009 I started my professional career as Senior Specialist at the J5-Strategic Planning Directorate of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces. One year later I received a job offer to work as Expert Analyst for the President of the Republic of Poland in the National Security Bureau where I specialize in the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU, defence industry as well as Euro-Atlantic security.

Moreover, since 2010 I have been working on my Ph.D. thesis that evaluates the role of the military industry in Europe after 1990. In 2012 I became a member of the Atlantic Council’s Young Atlanticist Working Group and was granted two prestigious scholarships (2012 Marshall Memorial Fellowship by the German Marshall Fund; 2012 “Personnalités d’avenir défense” by the French Ministry of Defense). Furthermore, my publications appeared in Germany, Finland, Russia, Slovakia, Poland, and the U.S. (e.g., “The National Interest,” “Armed Forces Journal,” “World Politics Review”).

The idea of establishing the Warsaw Chapter was a joint effort of H.E. Herbert Krauss, Austrian Ambassador to Poland, Mr. David Reisenzein, currently Liaison Officer at the Frontex Liaison Office in Brussels, and me. The inaugural meeting took place in the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador on September 27, 2011. 9 people, including our host, participated in the event: Ms. Diana Digol (Project Officer at the OSCE in Warsaw), Ms. Milena Golda (Editor-in-Chief of the “CEOWORLD Magazine”), Ms. Anna Trbaczkiewicz (Foreign Affairs Expert at the Chancellery of the Sejm), Mr. Józef Toczek (former Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland), Mr. Marek Roszak, Mr. Sebastian Mazurek (Finance
Executive Manager at Sun2Eco), Mr. David Reisenzein, Mr. Marcin Lech, and me.

In 2012 the Warsaw Chapter met on February 23. The whole evening was organized thanks to the gratitude of Mr. Marek Roszak, Managing Director at Edelmann Poland. We started our evening by visiting the Edelmann factory just in the outskirts of Warsaw. The exiting tour was followed by a reception during which we got a unique chance to participate in a lesson of professional wine tasting.

In 2013 we got off on the right foot very early: the first meeting was organized on January 22 in the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador. Our guest of honor was Ms. Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and a DA Alumna (38th Diploma Course), who became a member of the DA Alumni Hall of Fame in 2012.

The Warsaw Chapter wants to grow both in terms of size and quality. Indeed, we would be pleased to welcome new DA alumni in our chapter. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Andreas Ehrmann, Alumni Officer at the DA, who will provide you with our contact details.

Dominik P. Jankowski, M.A., is Expert Analyst at the National Security Bureau and alumnus of DA’s 45th Diploma Course.
On 27 January 2013, 33 DA alumni, students and staff participated in the 12th annual DA Ski and Snowboard Championships, which the DA again had organized 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 Women
1st Blain VALENTIN, GER, ETIA 6
2nd Theresia LEITINGER, AUT, MAIS 16
3rd Stefanie PLUT, AUT, DLG 49
4th Ana MAGLAJLIĆ, BIH, MAIS 16
5th Marta KACZMAREK, AUT, ETIA 6
6th Johanna DAMBOCK, AUT, MAIS 16

DA Champions Alpine Skiing Men
1st Whitman DAVIS, USA, MAIS 16
2nd Florian SCHWARZ, AUT, ETIA 6
3rd Tomasz ZALUSKA, POL, ETIA 6
4th Emil SIERCZYNSKI, DEN, MAIS 16
5th Andreas FELLINGER, AUT, MAIS 16
6th Benjamin NÄGELE, GER, MAIS 16

DA Champion Snowboard Women
1st Sarah STEGER, AUT, ETIA 5

DA Champion Snowboard Men
1st Klemens SCHWARZ, AUT, ETIA 6

Alumni Champion Alpine Skiing Men 1
1st Wendelin ETTMAYER, AUT, DLG 4

Alumni Champions Alpine Skiing Men 2
1st Ramin GALLENBACHER, AUT, DLG 44
2nd Gregor KOFLER, AUT, ETIA 2
3rd Christoph STERNAT, AUT, DLG 48

DA Champions Faculty & Staff
1st Andreas EHRMANN, AUT
2nd Markus KORNPROBST, GER
Since ClubDA implemented its chapter strategy in spring of 2009, fifteen local chapters have organized 86 alumni meetings in Vienna and around the world. Nearly 3,000 graduates and students as well as friends of the Diplomatic Academy took part. Recently, the following meetings took place:

27 October: 8th Annual Alumni Meeting in Berlin
As every year, Berlin Chapter president Wolfgang Dreusch invited fellow alumni to this event. The 9th Annual Alumni Meeting in Berlin will take place on 19 October 2013.

14 November: Traditional Martinigansl Dinner in Vienna
Ten alumni and students met at Meixner’s Gastwirtschaft in Vienna to enjoy this traditional Austrian treat.

16 November: Alumni Meeting in Geneva
Sebastien Brack invited the members of ClubDA’s Geneva/Zurich Chapter to his place for the chapter’s third meeting in 2012. After a magnificent dinner, the group went for a walk around nightly Geneva and had the pleasure of meeting the best-selling author Paulo Coelho there.

5 December: St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet
Each year ClubDA organizes a Meet & Greet with DA’s students to strengthen the ties between alumni and students, to get to know each other and simply have a good time. This year again more than 50 alumni and students came to the DA Bar to celebrate.

6 December: Brussels Chapter Christmas Meeting at Place de Londres

7 December: Geneva/Zurich Chapter Christmas Meeting with Glühwein and punch in the heart of Zurich

18 January: Alumni Meeting in Beijing
For its third meeting, the Beijing/Shanghai
Chapter organized a keynote address by Prof. Wang Li of Nankai University on “Continuity and Change in China’s Foreign Policy”. Furthermore, the chapter was happy to welcome guests from the Central Party School, the China Institute for International Studies as well as the “National History” magazine at a restaurant in central Beijing.

22 January: Alumni Meeting in Warsaw (see article on page 22)

27 January: 12th DA Ski and Snowboard Championships (see article on page 24)

14 February: 6th Alumni Hall of Fame Talk at the Diplomatic Academy
Three members of the DA Alumni Hall of Fame, DA’s director Hans Winkler, Wendelin Ettmayer and Gabriele Matzner, shared the stage to discuss the future of the European Union. ClubDA’s vice president Brigitta Blaha had the pleasure to welcome more than 100 alumni, students and friends of the DA to this ClubDA event.

28 February: Curling and Skating at “Wiener Eistraum 2013”
After the successful premiere in 2012, again more than 30 students and alumni joined us for curling and skating in front of Vienna’s city hall. We thank the stadt wien marketing gmbh for inviting us to this event including some snacks and drinks.

The Diplomatic Academy and ClubDA thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Student 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 photos of recent meetings and find out more about upcoming events organized by the DA and ClubDA as well as its local chapters.
Studierende an der DA 2012/13

Nicht weniger als 52 Nationalitäten sind heuer an der Akademie vertreten, was den internationalen Charakter der DA einmal mehr unterstreicht. Die Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Union sind dabei 132-mal und somit am stärksten repräsentiert.

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* Die genannten Nationalitäten summieren sich auf 213, da 13 Studierende mit Doppelstaatsbürgerschaften berücksichtigt sind.
### UdSSR-Nachfolgestaaten

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### Lateinamerika & Karibik

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### Australien & Ozeanien

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ON THE CALENDAR …

10 April 2013
Alumni Meeting in Brussels

18 April 2013
Talk by Bernhard Seyringer on “Science Diplomacy”

20 April 2013
Alumni Meeting in Geneva

27 April 2013
“Un Ballo in Maschera - Venetian Nights”
DASI Charity Ball 2013

9-11 May 2013
4th ClubDA Hiking Weekend at Naturpark Ötscher-Tormäuer

28-29 June 2013
15th International Alumni Meeting in Vienna
with ClubDA General Assembly, DA Sommerfest and the traditional Alumni Excursion,
this time to the Lower Austrian State Exhibition at Weinviertel

August 2013
5th Vienna Summer Meeting

19 October 2013
9th Annual Alumni Meeting in Berlin

30 November 2013
Christmas Meeting in Salzburg

For exact dates and additional events including interesting talks by DA alumni in Vienna as well as alumni meetings organized by ClubDA’s local chapters please check out our online event calendar at www.da-vienna.ac.at/alumni/events