

The HALLE Foundation

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JOURNAL



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Our Mission

THE HALLE FOUNDATION seeks to promote understanding, knowledge, and friendship between the people of Germany, as seen in its European context, and those of the United States. To this end, the Foundation supports initiatives in the fields of culture, science, technology, commerce, language, scholarship, and international relations that take place under the auspices of Emory University, the Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center, and other not-for-profit institutions which the Trustees may select from time to time.

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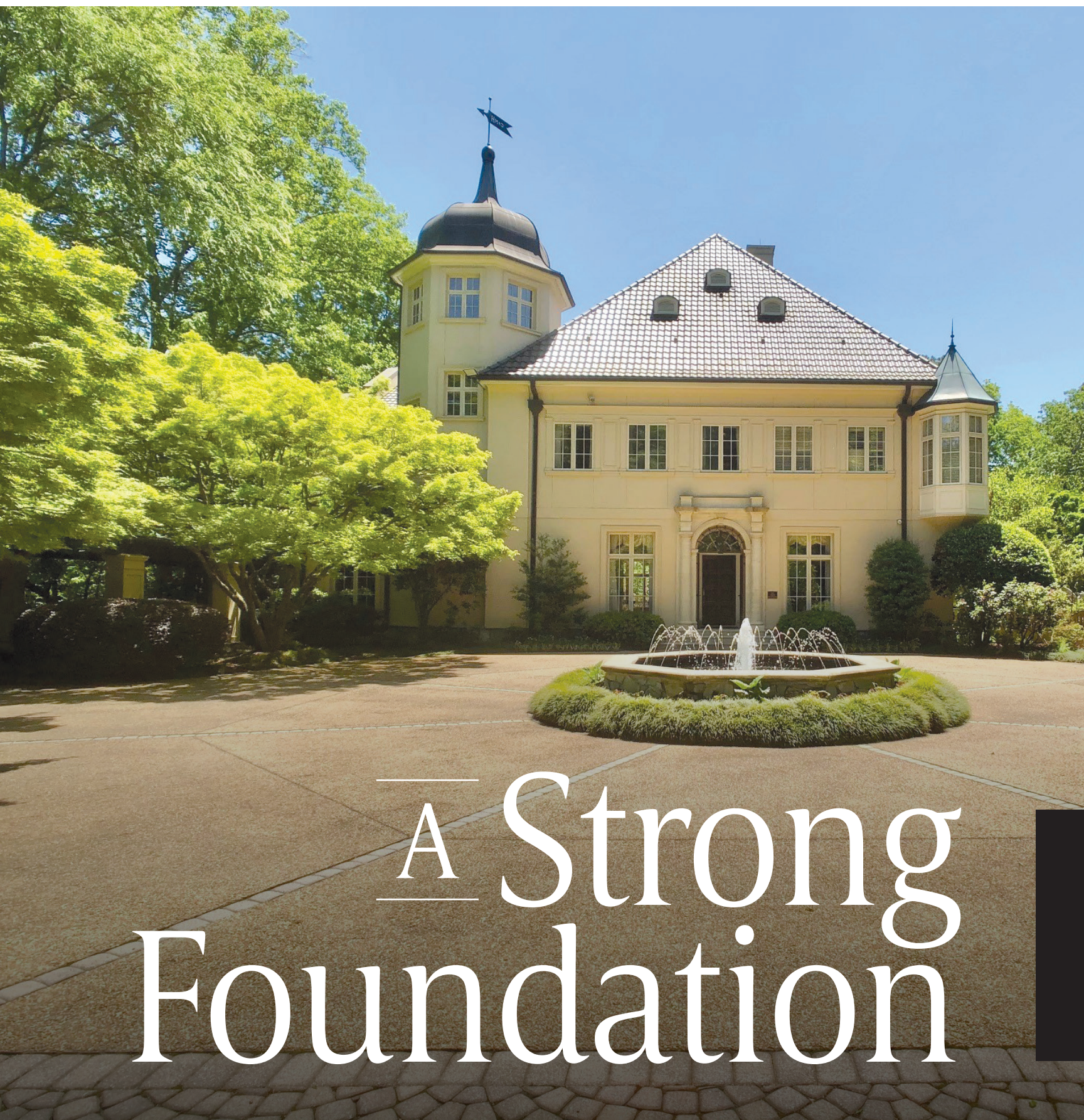
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Throughout 2021, The Halle Foundation was pleased to support twelve distinct organizations with funds totaling over \$1.3 million.



A Strong Foundation

« *The Halle Estate upon its hilltop perch, overlooking nearly 20 acres of pristine green space in the heart of Atlanta.*

LIKE MOST GRANT-MAKING charities, The Halle Foundation holds a portfolio of stocks, bonds, and other investment assets that it uses to support its charitable operations. However, its most valuable and unique asset can be found, not on a brokerage statement, but rather hidden behind an unassuming driveway entrance on a quiet street in North Atlanta.

That asset—nearly 20 acres of pristine rolling woodlands in the heart of Atlanta’s Buckhead neighborhood—was the location of the home of Claus Halle and his wife, Marianne, for nearly 30 years. At their deaths, the property was left to the Foundation, with the unusual direction that it not be sold, but instead be held, maintained, and directly used by the Foundation for its charitable purposes. Specifically, Mr. Halle directed that

the home be used as the site of the Foundation’s offices and as a venue for conferences, retreats, lectures, seminars, fundraisers, and similar functions by the Foundation and its nonprofit partners.

The property constitutes one of the largest undivided parcels of residential real estate in northwest Atlanta. Upon arrival, guests are often taken aback by the unique beauty of the property and begin taking photographs or requesting tours. This unspoiled green space is the location of the 12,000 square foot main home, a guest house, walking paths, footbridges, a gazebo, and other structures. The property is also home to an abundance of wildlife including a herd of seven deer, red-tailed hawks, foxes, rabbits, and at one time, a small black bear (since relocated to North Georgia!). »

Thirty-five years after its completion,
the Halle Estate is still **fulfilling its purpose**

»
Kennesaw State University senior Alexander Egart presents his senior project in the main room of the Halle Estate.



Mr. Halle's personal history provides insight into why the property was so near and dear to his heart. Toward the end of World War II, a 16-year-old Claus was conscripted into the German Army, and in March of 1945, he swam across the Elbe River to surrender himself to Allied forces. While Claus survived his ordeal, his family home in Silesia was not so lucky. As the Soviets advanced from the east, they destroyed the home, leaving almost nothing intact. Silesia itself, along with other German territories, were given to Poland following the war, and the Halle name was all but forgotten in the area.

While this refuge may have been nearly erased from history, it remained a vivid memory for Mr. Halle, a reminder both of childhood

innocence and the devastation and horrors of war. Claus Halle's meteoric rise through the ranks of The Coca-Cola Company saw him move frequently over the years, but when the opportunity to settle down in Atlanta arose, he had a singular vision for his new, and final, home.

The process began in 1989 when he began scouting for suitable land around Atlanta. Eventually, he and Mrs. Halle found property on West Conway Drive and decided it was the right spot, purchasing it and several adjoining parcels. Mr. Halle conducted extensive historical research, locating old photos and drawings of the family home, to ensure his re-creation was as faithful as possible, and engaged well-known local architects, Norman Askins and Yong Pak, to

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Mr Halle's office has been maintained in its original condition, replete with memorabilia from his successful career at The Coca-Cola Company.



The Halle Estate played host to a send-off luncheon for the outgoing Consul General.



The property is home to an abundance of wildlife including a herd of seven deer, red-tailed hawks, foxes, rabbits, and at one time, a small black bear (since relocated to North Georgia!).

carry out the design. Construction of the house was completed over a lengthy period, with master craftsmen being flown in from Europe to execute many of the intricate interior details.

Visitors to the home today gain an appreciation for the global influences that shaped Claus Halle. The architecture itself, of course, closely reflects its Silesian roots. In the dining room, one is greeted with elephants, Asian religious statuary, and other decorative items inspired by Claus' time in South Asia. The artwork depicting scenes of the English countryside derives from his time spent living in London as the President of Coca-Cola Europe. Mr. Halle's office, which has been

kept in its original state, contains his extensive library and mementos of a lifetime of accomplishment and service to The Coca-Cola Company, including establishing the brand in over 100 new international markets.

Mr. Halle built the house, however, with a larger aim in mind than simply creating a residence for himself and his wife. The war had been a searing and pivotal experience for Mr. Halle, and he was determined that nothing like it ever be repeated. To that end, in 1986, he formed The Halle Foundation with the mission of promoting peace, friendship, and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany. The Foundation immediately began making grants »



Emory University's German Department enjoying the Halle Estate's patio during a strategic planning retreat.

For more information and photographs of the Estate, please visit thehallefoundation.org, or contact:

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for a variety of programs including: funding exchanges of German and American high school, technical college, and university students and teachers; promoting arts and culture between the two countries; and encouraging economic development by German businesses in Georgia. In addition, he began using the house as a vehicle for carrying out the educational and charitable mission of the Foundation. He hosted conferences, seminars, and gatherings of visiting scholars, artists, and politicians as the Halle Estate became a center of US-German relations in Atlanta. One of the most notable of these efforts came in 2003, when he welcomed former President George H.W. Bush, former Soviet President

Mikhail S. Gorbachev, and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, all of whom were visiting for the Unification Conference, organized by Mr. Halle, where they discussed the critical decisions surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany.

Upon the death of Marianne Halle in the fall of 2019, the Foundation became the full owner of the Halle Estate. After more than a year devoted to securing zoning approvals, completing minor construction projects, and other preparations necessary to accommodate public access, the Foundation moved its offices there and began conducting educational and charitable functions at the house consistent with Mr. Halle's

wishes. Functions have ranged from small faculty retreats for local university German departments to large sit-down dinners with nonprofit and diplomatic guests to providing the backdrop for the Foundation-funded PBS "The Key of Bach" documentary, produced by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Halle wanted this valuable asset to be used for the benefit of the Foundation and those nonprofit partners that share its mission. The Halle Estate has been outfitted to ensure that all meeting and event needs for potential partners have been met, with high-speed internet and video conferencing, abundant space for lectures and conferences, parking, catering support, and much more. ■

Dr. Smith Goes to Atlanta

How Professor Sabine Smith's experience of America inspired her to create cross-cultural opportunity for hundreds more

CLAUS HALLE CREATED The Halle Foundation in 1986 with the mission of promoting peace, friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany. At the time, he emphasized to his fellow Foundation trustees that programs which encouraged extensive interpersonal contact and direct immersion in the culture of each country, particularly by young people, should be the Foundation's highest priority. He believed that funding programs with these features was not only the most effective way of accomplishing the Foundation's goals, but could have a transformative effect on the lives of young Americans and Germans in a myriad of ways. Consistent

with this direction, over the last 35 years, the Foundation has provided millions of dollars in support for student exchanges, faculty travel, overseas internships and similar programs at college, universities, high schools, and other nonprofits across Georgia.

One need not look any further for validation of Mr. Halle's convictions than to the personal and professional experience of Dr. Sabine Smith, the director of the German program at Kennesaw State University (KSU), a longstanding grant partner of the Foundation. Dr. Smith's history as a global citizen with an interest in building bridges across the Atlantic began in her own formative years, on a trip much like those she now directs for »



» SPECIAL FEATURE

Professor Sabine Smith receives a warm goodbye from the class of outgoing seniors.



her students at KSU. As a 17-year-old, she visited the southeastern United States for a week, with stops in Nashville and Atlanta. This travel experience indelibly shaped the trajectory of her life and career; she was enthralled with the United States, its people, and its culture, and knew she was called to help create opportunities for others to have that same global eye-opening experience.

Dr. Smith wasted no time in starting down this new path, changing her primary foreign language from French to English, and when she began at university, she chose to major in American Studies with hopes of studying and working abroad in the United States. This decision paid off with a stint as a German teaching assistant in the prestigious foreign language program at Middlebury College in Vermont. This was her first real experience as an educator, and it both reinforced her professional goals, and influenced her belief in the value of teaching methods that focused on experiential learning and repeated travel opportunities.

Her later education built on this idea, with Dr. Smith receiving

a Master's degree in American Studies from Mainz University before moving to the United States to pursue a PhD in German Studies from the University of California at Davis. When her husband received a job offer from KSU, her transatlantic experience came full circle back to Atlanta, where she found a home in the school's fledgling German department. Since her arrival as a

At the urging of former KSU President and trustee of The Halle Foundation, Dan Papp, Smith applied for her first grant from the Foundation in 2011. The Foundation's then-executive director, Marnite Calder, was thrilled with her proposal, which focused on funding for programs which integrated traditional classroom teaching with support for

Professor Smith was enthralled with the United States, its people, and its culture, and knew she was called to help create opportunities for others to have that same global eye-opening experience.

part-time instructor in 1997, KSU's German Department has seen continual and substantial growth, in large part due to Dr. Smith's stewardship, and it is now the second largest German program in the state of Georgia, and the largest in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

study abroad programs for students. These learning experiences had the aim of developing not only language skills, but what Smith terms "intercultural competence in learners." After Calder visited KSU and saw the effectiveness of these programs and their impact on

students, the Foundation's funding commitment increased within the program's first year. The Halle Foundation has supported these programs on an ever-growing scale at KSU ever since.

Dr. Smith is quick to point out a number of external factors have aided the program's growth and made German even more important as a field of study in Georgia's schools. She views the 1996 Olympics as a seminal event in Atlanta's history, propelling it from a regional hub city to a world metropolis with global cachet. Of course, many major German automobile manufacturers have established themselves in the southeast, with BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, and Volkswagen all setting up manufacturing plants or continental headquarters within a small radius around Atlanta. These may be the biggest and most recognizable German companies to move to the region, but they are far from the only ones; around 500 German companies have a presence

in the state of Georgia. The growing German commercial presence has created a multitude of opportunities for students with sound training in German language and culture. Dr. Smith is quick to note, however, that she sees language proficiency as only part of the package her students can offer these employers – equally important skills are knowledge of German values, workplace culture, and a willingness to immerse themselves in a cross-cultural environment.

Her priorities in educating have been crucial to the shape and success of KSU's German program. As Dr. Smith often says when it comes to learning, "one size doesn't fit all and students must be met where you find them." At the University, this flexible approach has been a key to the program's growth; recognizing that many students have jobs, limited financial resources or travel experience, or other disadvantages has informed her programmatic and educational efforts. She has also focused on building a community »

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The KSU German club welcoming incoming exchange "azubis" from Germany.



» SPECIAL FEATURE

of German learners on campus, with regular social and cultural events that bring together all students with an interest in Germany. She has tried to make German as accessible and appealing as possible, and the results suggest she has done just that.

With the transfer of additional financial resources to the Foundation in late 2019 after the death of Marianne Halle, expansion of the KSU program was a priority for the Foundation. Dr. Smith proposed a comprehensive program focused on producing true “transatlanticists” who can use their intercultural competence to move within both American and German cultures. This program, dubbed “German 4 All,” expanded upon her previous efforts in a variety of ways.

German 4 All begins at the middle school and high school level, and is centered around the Georgia State German Convention, which Dr. Smith describes as a weekend of German fun, games, and competition, where students can see the potential of embracing another culture and meet peers with similar interests. Here, The Halle Foundation supports registration and travel costs for disadvantaged students and schools. With their interest sufficiently piqued, students then hopefully choose to attend KSU or another Georgia college or university with the aim of pursuing German studies.

Once on campus, students that choose to attend KSU take the next step in their education. The goal of this initial year is to engage in the student in on-campus learning and community experiences, develop

peer relationships with German students and teachers, and learn enough German to participate in a Maymester abroad experience. This month of travel is focused on laying the groundwork for developing students’ ability to live independently abroad, including the mastery of a number of practical skills such as managing public transportation, shopping in German markets and stores, opening a German bank account, and other basic living skills.

An additional travel opportunity is available following the student’s sophomore year, when they are encouraged to do a month-long summer study program at the University of Munster. Again, this experience further develops the student’s confidence in living independently in a foreign country; there are no KSU faculty present, and while these teachers can and do provide support remotely, these students are truly immersed in German education. Dr. Smith is intent on these programs being about cultural immersion and learning, and makes every effort to avoid the “academic tourism” character of some study programs.

For their junior year, students are then ready for a whole semester abroad at a German university, often at KSU’s long-time academic partner, Paderborn University. This program is especially appealing to students, as it includes the possibility of working as a teaching assistant, and Paderborn in particular has a relatively low cost of living.

For those that wish to pursue international living, the final step is an internship in Germany in the



Professor Smith inducts a new student into Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honors Society.

Professor Smith with officers of KSU’s German Club.



career field of their choice. The German department faculty at KSU is very diligent in incorporating a student's secondary studies into the curriculum, and they understand that a German major or minor often accompanies another major such as mechanical engineering, chemistry, or any of the other degrees offered by KSU. As such, German students often focus their German projects or coursework on their other fields, and this culminates in the internship program, where, for example, that same mechanical engineering student may get an internship at Airbus or Mercedes, and a chemistry student may find herself at Siemens.

All along the way, The Halle Foundation offers financial resources to make these programs possible. When a financially struggling student told Dr. Smith that they wanted to go abroad but could not afford it, she reminded them "Yes you can! Because we have the support of The Halle Foundation." The Foundation seeks to create what we call "multipliers": young people who are passionate about, and firmly invested in promoting, the relationship between the United States and Germany, with such enthusiasm that they inspire others. ■



Mason Kane, '19, is using his German skills to pursue an international career.

Student Spotlight

MASON KANE, '19 is one of the hundreds of talented students whose future was fundamentally shaped by the influence of Dr. Smith and the German program at KSU. Mason arrived at KSU with a nascent interest in German, and quickly took advantage of the abundance of opportunities and experiences made available to students by the German Department. Among other things, he participated in KSU's study abroad program at Paderborn University. While there, he immersed himself in the culture and refined his language skills, and was ultimately able to find work in Germany as a teacher of English as a second language. He is currently pursuing graduate studies in German and European Studies at Georgetown University, with the goal of serving in the United States Foreign Service. ■

In the first of four Foundation-supported Germany-focused events, the World Affairs Council of Atlanta invited its members to the Halle Estate for a night of political discussion and German wine tasting.



Wish Granted

Throughout 2021, The Halle Foundation was pleased to support twelve distinct organizations with funds totaling over \$1.3 million

THE FOUNDATION MAKES grants to organizations organized and operated in both the United States and Germany. Funding is largely limited to U.S.-based public charities exempt under section 501(c)(3) and to German organizations which are the tax equivalent of such charities.

In keeping with the founder's preference, most U.S. grants are made to organizations and institutions operating within, or with some discernable connection to, the state of Georgia.

These twelve standout organizations were the recipients of funding in 2021, supporting their endeavors to bring Americans and Germans together in tangible ways. »

World Affairs Council of Atlanta

\$14,000

THE FOUNDATION has provided funding to the World Affairs Council to support four educational programs on German-US relations.

Georgia Youth Ambassadors Program

\$16,000

THE GEORGIA YOUTH Ambassadors Program (“GYAP”), begun in 2008 by former Fulton County Board of Commissioners Chair and Peace Corps official, Dr. John Eaves, provides Atlanta area high school students from underserved communities with the opportunity to receive global leadership training and to participate in international travel.

The Halle Foundation has been a supporter of the program since 2018, as have the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation and various corporate sponsors. Although GYAP was forced to suspend the international travel component of its program due to COVID-19

restrictions, the Foundation provided \$16,000 in funding in 2021 to support a reconfigured program – “Summer 2021 Global Leadership Academy: Destination Germany” – in virtual format for 25 student participants.

The students received language and cultural training in conjunction with GYAP partner Lingoda; participated in seminars on international careers and received counseling on resume writing, interviewing skills, and identifying internships; and, explored the theme of social justice in the US and Germany with a variety of speakers, including Sawson Chebli, a member of the German Bundestag.

American Association of Teachers of German

\$137,775

THE HALLE FOUNDATION grant funding of \$137,775 will enable the American Association of Teachers of German to fund scholarships to enable ten Georgia high school students to travel and study in Germany each summer for the next three years. This three-week program is aimed at high school

students in Georgia who are learning German but have not had the opportunity to travel abroad. The trip will include homestays in Germany and educational experience in a German gymnasium, equivalent to an American high school.

Georgia State University

\$300,000

THE HALLE FOUNDATION is providing \$100,000 to Georgia State University (GSU) for each of the next three years to expand GSU’s longstanding bilateral exchange with Friedrich-Alexander University in Bavaria. This one-to-one exchange is one of the

oldest such programs at Georgia State. Previously, the exchange was limited in participation due to financial constraints, but with this increased funding, student participation is expected to rise from 2-4 students per year up to 10 students annually. »

Georgia Boy Choir

\$125,000

FOUNDED IN 2009, the 85-member Georgia Boy Choir is one of the finest choirs of its kind. Funding from the Foundation of \$125,000 will support the German portion of the Choir's 2023 Alpine Tour. These funds will pay for the costs

of air travel, ground transportation, and accommodations for 50 participants, who will present concerts and visit cultural sites across Bavaria. The tour will include attendance at the Passionsspiele performance in Oberammergau.

German American Chamber of Commerce

\$219,325

A PRINCIPAL AREA of strategic focus for the Foundation is encouragement of adoption by Georgia employers of the German dual-education model of workforce development. In furtherance of this goal, the Foundation has approved grant funding to the German American Chamber of Commerce South. These funds will be used to support and expand the existing Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training initiative (a

collaboration between the Chamber, local educational institutions, and employers). The goal is to double the number of students enrolled in the program over the next two years. This funding will enable the Chamber to hire a full-time Apprentice Success Coordinator, streamline exam administration and preparation, and provide affiliate companies with necessary instruction materials for apprenticeships.

International Farm Youth Exchange

\$45,000

THE HALLE FOUNDATION provided \$45,000 in grant funding to the International Farm Youth Exchange Association (IFYE) to give three participants from Georgia the opportunity to experience Germany by living with families in different regions of the country.

IFYE is a 73-year-old international exchange program for young adults 19 and older. The program is designed to immerse participants in international understanding with a focus on learning and experiencing German culture and agricultural practices. Research has shown

that those who live internationally and interact with families in those countries have a greater appreciation for cultural diversity.

IFYE provides cultural exchange programming that places participants with multiple host families during a two-, three-, or six-month period in countries around the world and the U.S. IFYE participants experience once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to gain understanding of the culture and lifestyle from those they live with while in the program.

American Institute of Contemporary German Studies

\$174,000

THE HALLE FOUNDATION is providing \$58,000 per year to the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University to support a total of six interns from the state of Georgia. AICGS is a premier policy institute whose internship programs have been

instrumental in developing young professionals with an interest and competence in the promotion of German-American cooperation across private, governmental, academic, and non-profit sectors. Claus Halle served as a board member for AICGS and was an avid supporter of its work.

Georgia Southern University

\$187,288

THE HALLE FOUNDATION is currently supporting multiple programs at Georgia Southern, who is a new partner for the Foundation. In 2022, the Foundation is contributing \$100,000 to support the GSU Chorale's participation in a Summer Competition Tour, where it will perform and compete in iconic venues in Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, and across Bavaria.

The Foundation will provide an additional \$29,026 per year to

support a new "Engineering in Germany" travel/study program. Twelve students in this program will attend the Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt, where they will have an international study-abroad experience that exposes them to the academic, industrial, historic, and cultural elements of Bavaria, which is a leader in Europe's energy, automotive, and aerospace industries.

Goethe-Zentrum

\$87,400

GOETHE-ZENTRUM ATLANTA is the city's nonprofit hub for German language instruction and culture. The Halle Foundation provided support for its search for a new Language Program Director to attract the best candidate it could. The search has since concluded, with Angelika Otte being named Language Program Director in August of 2021. Mrs. Otte has been working in German language instruction since 2007, with experience as a public high school

teacher, private tutor, and at The German School of Atlanta.

The Halle Foundation also provided funding for language instructor professional development and technology upgrades, both of which were critical for addressing the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Foundation and Goethe-Zentrum believe that these investments in language instruction will result in continual growth of revenue and reach. »

The Foundation is supporting an expansion of Emory's Vienna Summer Study program from one to two months, with the second month taking place in Freiburg, Germany.



Emory University

\$118,798

THE HALLE FOUNDATION continued its long and successful partnership with Emory University with funding for two additional programs. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Emory's study abroad program in Vienna, Austria was cancelled for both 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the Foundation will fund a one-time, fourteen-day spring study trip to Berlin. This trip will allow German majors who have not had a study abroad experience as a result of the pandemic to immerse themselves in German culture and experiential learning. This grant

will fund travel by twelve students and two faculty, and includes a scholarship for up to six students in need of financial assistance.

The Foundation is also supporting an expansion of the Vienna Summer Study program from one to two months, with the second month taking place in Freiburg. Emory has pre-existing infrastructure and experience in Freiburg, the site of its fall/spring semester study abroad programs. This grant, which extends over a period of three years, will support fourteen students per year.

Georgia Tech

\$42,597

THE HALLE FOUNDATION is continuing to fund Georgia Tech's Halle Gateway Scholarship, which provides financial support for two undergraduate students in Georgia Tech's German Studies department to enroll in graduate-level German courses. The Foundation is also extending

its support for the Halle Fellows, a program which provides tuition support and summer travel funding and stipends for graduate students. The Foundation has supported this program since 2019, and will continue to provide funding for two students this upcoming summer. ■

OUR FOUNDER



CLAUS HALLE was an international business executive and philanthropist. Born in Germany, Mr. Halle was conscripted as a young teen into the German army during the latter part of World War II, and in March 1945, swam across the Elbe River to surrender himself to Allied forces. After completing high school, he began a remarkable career with The Coca-Cola Company as a truck driver in Essen, Germany. Over the next 45 years, he rose to the most senior ranks of the company, including service as President of Coca-Cola Germany, President of Coca-Cola Europe and President of Coca-Cola International. He opened hundreds of new global markets for the company during his career, thereby adding immense value to one of the world's most well-known brands.

Having experienced first-hand the horrors of war, and as a citizen of both the United States and Germany, Mr. Halle came to believe that, in his words, “[t]here is nothing more important for peace and prosperity in our hemisphere than the friendship between the United States and Germany.” Following his retirement, he devoted himself tirelessly to numerous philanthropic

organizations and causes that he believed strengthened the relationship between the two countries. He served as a trustee of numerous national and local organizations, including The Carter Center, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Southern Center for International Studies, the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, the German American Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Goethe. In 1986, he founded The Halle Foundation, which carries out his legacy today of promoting peace, friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany. Among other honors, Mr. Halle was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, an honorary doctorate from Emory University, and was named Georgia Philanthropist of the Year in 2001.

Mr. Halle devoted enormous energy and resources to promoting international awareness and cooperation. His work in the field of international philanthropy sought to encourage Americans to learn more about the views and ways of thinking of others and to become global as well as national citizens. He was a man of broad vision, quick intellect, charm, wit, and deep international insight. ■

The Halle Foundation

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