

The HALLE Foundation

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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, the American Council on Germany, and other not-for-profit institutions which the Trustees may select from time to time.

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FEATURE STORY

Melanie Moltmann, current German Consul in Atlanta, receiving an award at the Halle Residenz.



Almost No Place Like Home

Making a home away from home for
Germans in the United States.

THE GERMAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE in Atlanta and the Southeastern United States has a long and rich history, and the Atlanta-based German diplomatic mission has played a critical role in fostering friendship, cooperation, and business ties between the two countries.

When the first German Consulate opened its doors in Atlanta in 1904, Germany was the first and only country represented with a foreign mission in the city (although the German presence in Georgia dates back for well over two centuries). At the time the Consulate was established, there were about 700 German-born residents in Atlanta amid a small German-speaking community that supported a German language newspaper, a Turnverein (athletic club), one German-speaking Lutheran Church, one English-speaking Lutheran Church, and a Jewish synagogue (the congregation of which was mostly German).

Twice during the 20th century, consular operations in Atlanta ceased because diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States were suspended during the world wars. Each time, the consular offices re-opened; each time with more impact. In 1972, Germany recognized Atlanta as the emerging business and cultural center of the Southeast and upgraded the consular post to “Consulate General” status. This move rightfully elevated the importance of the region as an international partner for Germany (and also made Atlanta more attractive for diplomats as a step in their careers). In 2004, the Consulate General celebrated its 100th anniversary with several large-scale events and an exhibit at the Atlanta History Center detailing the centuries-old history of German immigration in the Southeast.

OUTPOST ATLANTA

The 226 German missions located

across the globe function as Germany’s eyes, ears, and voice abroad. These outposts represent the country, defend its interests, and protect its citizens in the host country. They negotiate with the government of the host country and promote political relations as well as economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation.

Atlanta is one of eight German missions in the United States. In addition to the German Embassy in Washington DC, the US-based missions are located in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and San Francisco. The Atlanta consular district covers the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

THE ESSENTIAL TASKS OF THESE MISSIONS INCLUDE:

- reporting on issues which are of interest to German authorities



≡ Consul General Moltmann and colleagues.

» FEATURE STORY

- assisting Germans living abroad with regard to certificates and legal documents, helping German citizens in emergencies, and carrying out crisis protection measures
- issuing visas for travel to Germany
- assisting German companies with their activities in the host country and generally enhancing mutual trade
- promoting cultural and educational exchange
- educating the host country's public about German and European foreign policy and also about Germany, its society, and culture in general
- organizing and supporting high-level visits from Germany

The Consulate General also functions in part as a representative of the European Union and works closely with its European consular partners in Atlanta to organize joint political, economic, and cultural events. For example, in October of this year the Consulate will sponsor the "Week of German Language" in cooperation with

the Swiss, Belgian, and Austrian consulates and the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta. The program will feature many exciting events promoting German language learning for all ages including concerts, an open-air market, panel discussions, and a puppet theatre.

Today, German influence in the Southeast is quantitatively and qualitatively different from in the earlier centuries. Germans are no longer political or religious refugees; they are investors and business leaders, who have found fertile ground here for their commercial ventures. Enterprise and investment, more than migration, characterize the exchange between German and Southeastern economies and peoples today.

Atlanta, Georgia, and the Southeastern United States have emerged in the last 50 years as the most desirable geographic area in the US to invest and do business. An unprecedented number of German companies have selected this region as their home away from home and have created hundreds of thousands well-paying jobs and a prominent German presence.

The German American Chamber of Commerce, with the support of then - Consul General Ernst Ingenday in 1978, led initially by (current Foundation chair) Dr. Eike Jordan, was critical in jumpstarting this development.

THE UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR

Claus Halle considered himself the "unofficial" ambassador for Germany in the Southeast and worked closely over several decades with six different consul generals in Atlanta. Collaborative projects included efforts over the years to establish and expand non-stop air service between Atlanta and several cities in Germany thereby helping foster the consistent growth of German investment in the Southeast. Delta Airlines, for example, has operated as many as four daily direct flights from Atlanta to Germany which allow close connections to be maintained between businesses and families, and facilitate robust tourist travel.

One joint effort that Mr. Halle was particularly proud of was the unification conference held in Atlanta in 2003 and which included

Melanie Moltmann is the current German Consul General in Atlanta and assumed her post in 2021. Dr. Moltmann is 11th German Consul General in Atlanta and just the second woman to head the official mission of the German Federal Government for the Southeastern United States. Trained as a lawyer,

Moltmann served in posts in Armenia and Uzbekistan prior to coming to Atlanta. As Consul General in Atlanta, she travels extensively throughout the Southeast to foster good relations and cooperation with German and American partners.



former President George H. W. Bush, former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr. Halle personally hosted these dignitaries at his estate in Buckhead (now the home of The Halle Foundation). Other projects on which Mr. Halle, the Foundation, and the Consulate worked closely included the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Berlin airlift and the three trips by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus to Germany to perform with the Berlin Symphony.

Mr. Halle made a point to make himself available whenever requested by the consulate (or by the Chamber or any other major organization) to act as a representative of the German people in the region. After settling in Atlanta in the late 1970's, Mr. Halle was a highly sought-after personality. Knowing that he would attend your annual meeting,

fundraiser, or Christmas party would almost ensure a full house. Convincing Mr. Halle to receive an important politician or government representative at his office or meet for lunch or dinner at the Halle Residenz, would delight any consul general and guarantee success of the official visit.

In recognition of Mr. Halle's service to the country, in September of 1989 then Consul General Alexander von Schmeling-Diringshofen awarded him the Cross of the Order of Merit, First Class. This high honor was eclipsed in January 1996, when Mr. Halle received the Great Cross of the Order of Merit, one of the highest honors a civilian can receive from the German government.

Mr. Halle passed away in 2004. However, he ensured his legacy – his love of both the United States and Germany -- would survive in the form of The Halle Foundation, which he created in 1986 to promote

knowledge, understanding and friendship between Germans and Americans. Today, the Foundation grants millions of dollars annually to schools, cultural institutions, and other nonprofits which share the mission of the Foundation. The Foundation also owns and operates the Halle Residenz as a venue for conferences, seminars, receptions, and other educational and cultural events.

It was very appropriate that the first two major events at the Halle Residenz after the Foundation took ownership of the estate were a farewell dinner for Consul General Dr. Heike Fuller and a few weeks later a welcome luncheon for incoming Consul General Melanie Moltmann. Since that day the Foundation has organized and hosted over 60 events to recognize and honor champions of German-American friendship and welcome important visitors from Germany. ■



🔗 *Students of the University of Georgia dual degree program visit the Embassy of the United States.*

Dual Degrees are Twice as Nice

Students of UGA's dual degree program enjoyed a warm reception at the Halle Residenz.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S GERMAN PROGRAM and The Halle Foundation have enjoyed a fruitful relationship in recent years. This partnership began with the development by UGA in 2015 of an innovative dual degree

program that offers students studying both German and engineering an intensive year-long experiential learning opportunity abroad. This relationship has now grown to include Foundation-supported opportunities for

University students at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and internships at the Europe Office of the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

Graduates of this program emerge with two bachelor's degrees and are uniquely prepared for work in Germany or the United States.



≡ *Presentation of the dual degree program at the Halle Residenz.*

GERMAN/ENGINEERING DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

The dual degree program was developed several years after the founding of the University's College of Engineering in 2012 and took inspiration from a similar program created at the University of Rhode Island. Given Germany's long tradition of excellence in engineering, and the University's place as a leading academic center for German studies (it's the largest program in the state), a dual degree program seemed a natural fit to then-German department head, Martin Kagel, and to David Stooksbury, a professor in the fledgling engineering school. Professors Kagel and Stooksbury, along with a team of faculty members and administrators, spent over a semester carefully devising a five-year program which integrated study abroad and internship experiences in Germany with the rigorous academic

requirements of an engineering degree. The Halle Foundation provided an initial grant of \$58,000 to get the program up and running.

The program begins in the late summer, usually during the fourth year of study, when students head to Bonn for a month of intensive language training at the local Goethe Institut. Armed with sharpened language skills, participants then spend a semester at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, one of Germany's top-ranked technical universities, taking classes, in German, in their chosen engineering discipline. There, students continue to build upon both the language and engineering training they receive in Athens while gaining a deeper appreciation of German culture, values, and educational approaches. After completion of this academic experience, students then complete a four-

month internship at a large company based (or with a large presence) in Germany. (Employers have included Siemens, Merck, and Airbus, among others.)

Graduates of this program emerge with two bachelor's degrees and are uniquely prepared for work in Germany or the United States, with not only language fluency, but a great depth of international, hands-on experience that will serve them well regardless of where their career paths lead. The opportunities for students who want to remain in the Southeastern US after graduation are fertile, given that the region has become the home to so many high profile potential German employers, such as Porsche, Mercedes Benz, BMW, and Volkswagen (all companies with operations within a three-hour radius of Athens).

The dual degree program has grown quickly since its inception.

» SPECIAL FEATURE

After sending one student on the inaugural trip in 2015-2016, the University has expanded participation to five to ten students a year. (There are 30 or so students in various stages of the dual degree program, and they represent a substantial portion of the 80-90 German majors at the University as a whole.)

The Foundation, which has encouraged this growth by extending its commitment with a \$220,000 grant in 2022, views the dual degree program as a model to be emulated at German

programs across the country. In a time where enrollments in German programs in many places are shrinking and departmental budgets are being slashed, this kind of forward-thinking initiative, which offers students a strong value proposition and foundation for a successful career, has been able to grow.

MUNICH-BASED PROGRAMS

In the wake of the success of the German/Engineering program, the University has been proactive in seeking other opportunities,

in conjunction with the Foundation, to continue to grow the German department and its study abroad and experiential learning offerings. One important new initiative has been UGA's relationship with Ludwig Maximillian University (LMU) in Munich. The partnership, which began just before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has since blossomed into a multi-level collaboration involving undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty from both universities.



≡ Students of UGA's dual degree program chat during the reception at the Halle Residenz.



Grace Swords is a UGA student and Dual Degree participant.

Student Testimony

GRACE SWORDS

“I chose the UGA dual degree program at UGA because I took German in high school and knew I wanted to pursue an engineering degree. Coming from Michigan, the UGA dual degree program is actually what prompted me to apply to UGA and was a strong factor in my decision to attend. I loved that I would be able to spend significant time abroad during my studies, something that is rare with engineering. I also liked that there was such a strong emphasis on learning the language. The UGA Dual Degree program is so unique, and I think it really helps set people up for success professionally.”

“This program has definitely helped me prepare for my future career. In addition to graduating with two bachelor’s degrees, I have taken a semester of engineering courses in German and worked as an intern in a technical field

while having to speak German for six months. Although I plan on returning to the U.S. and working there long-term, there are still so many valuable skills I’ve learned from this program that will help me in my future career, even if I never have to speak German at work. Having to navigate life in a foreign country has given me a new-found confidence. I’ve gained personal and professional relationships with people from all over the world. The Dual Degree program at UGA is such a unique opportunity that has set me up for success both professionally and academically.”

Grace Swords is a UGA student and Dual Degree participant currently finishing up an internship at Dräger, a leading medical device manufacturer in Lübeck. There, she is able to work and communicate with her team entirely in German.

» SPECIAL FEATURE

Regularly ranked at the top of German universities, LMU's academic excellence and diverse course offerings make it the perfect destination for UGA students seeking to broaden their horizons. The university's course offerings are similar to those at UGA, and a wide range of courses are taught in English, making studying abroad there more accessible than at some other universities which may require a high degree of language fluency. Of special interest is LMU's Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, an internationally focused and interdisciplinary research center that has garnered a reputation for first-class research on critical sustainability and environmental issues.

The partnership between LMU and UGA has already delivered numerous benefits for both universities, including faculty mobility exchanges, short-term fellowships, and student internships. LMU's commitment to providing excellent support for UGA students who participate in the program (including assistance with housing and research assistantships) is a standout feature that has gotten the collaboration off to a successful start.

This upcoming school year, the Foundation is hoping to expand upon this success and involve a greater number of undergraduate students in the exchange by providing incentive grants to students. These funds will cover travel costs and afford students the opportunity to undergo four weeks

of intensive German language training prior to their enrollment at LMU, with the goal of helping students without extensive language skills more quickly acclimate and feel comfortable in Germany. For those with a German

Munich has also emerged as perhaps the most important European business hub for Georgia companies.

background, the curriculum expands their existing skills and intercultural competence, and presents an opportunity to receive language proficiency certification.

Munich has also emerged as perhaps the most important European business hub for Georgia companies. The Georgia Europe office, an extension of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, calls Bavaria home. Founded in 1973, the Munich-based Europe office provides support for prospective and existing European companies seeking to establish or expand business operations in the Southeast and acts as an advocate for Georgia-based companies seeking to export products to, and otherwise expand their reach into, the European market.

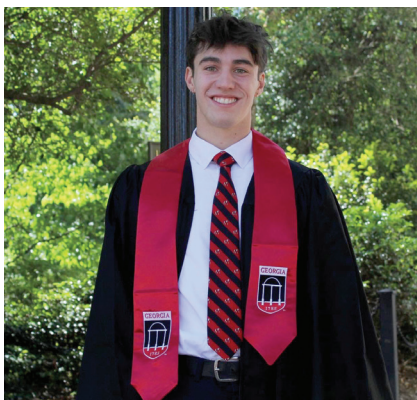
Here, UGA has leveraged existing ties between Georgia and Germany into an exceptional experiential learning experience for its students. UGA has begun a program that allows two

undergraduate students majoring in International Business, Political Science, and/or International Affairs to work as interns at the office for a period of three months. This program, which began in the 2022-23 school

year and has received initial Foundation funding for a total of three years, allows participants to gain professional experience in their chosen fields, refine language skills, and develop a deeper connection to Germany. Combined with the study abroad opportunities at LMU, the creation of this program allows non-engineering students to enjoy nearly a full year of cultural enrichment and work experience.

The University of Georgia has been a leader in German education, and, with Foundation support, has continually expanded on the vast array of opportunities afforded to students in this area. UGA programs consistently produce smart, dedicated graduates who are committed to furthering friendship and understanding between Germans and Americans. ■





Nathan Howrey participated in the LMU study abroad program and received degrees in International Affairs and German.

Student Testimony

NATHAN HOWREY

“During my time at LMU, I studied in the political science department while taking intensive German courses. As a double major in International Affairs and German, this program was well aligned with my interests. I took courses in both German and English, gaining an in-depth understanding of German politics and current affairs as well as deepening my understanding of German language and culture. I also had the opportunity to work as a research assistant with the American Studies department, where I was able to further develop my research skills and interests. “

“In addition to a rich academic environment, I was also exposed to a fruitful student life on a daily basis as I lived in a student living complex and was able to interact with other international

and German students frequently. we spent time exploring Munich and surrounding areas and taking part in German cultural traditions together. “

“Overall, I would say that this program has given me a deep appreciation and understanding of Germany and its culture and has heavily influenced my future professional and academic plans as I work to strengthen German-American relations post-graduation.”

Nathan Howrey is a recent UGA graduate in International Affairs and German. After working as an undergraduate research assistant in Munich, he is now a Program Officer with The Halle Foundation, working to strengthen the relationship between Germany and the state of Georgia.



🔺 *The Georgia Boy Choir performed at the Halle Residenz before embarking on their Germany tour.*

Wish Granted

The Halle Foundation is pleased to have awarded over \$700,000 in the second half of 2022 to these worthy organizations.

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 standout organizations were the recipients of funding in 2022 and 2023, supporting their endeavors to bring Americans and Germans together in tangible ways.

Carl Duisberg Centren/ Chamblee High School

\$25,770

THE FOUNDATION PROVIDED funding to enable 15 students from Chamblee’s highly regarded German program to study in Germany in the summer of 2023 where they received intensive

advanced language training, lived with host families, and explored cultural experiences at the Carl Duisberg Centren on Lake Constance.

Chattahoochee Technical College

\$8,180

FOUNDATION FUNDING will support an initial year of student and faculty exchange with Berufskolleg Halle in Germany. Five students and three faculty will travel to Halle Germany and attend training at German vocational

schools, visit German companies, and observe first-hand the German dual training system.

City Schools of Decatur

\$14,000

THE DECATUR GEORGIA public school system received funding to enable seven teachers from the schools to travel to Berlin for two weeks in the summer of 2023 to

study German pedagogical methods and approaches to teaching English as a second language.

Georgia Boy Choir

\$134,000

THE CHOIR, consisting of boys ages five to 13, is one of the most accomplished boys choirs in the country. Foundation funding will support educational and cultural travel by the 48 members of the

choir to Bavaria for two weeks in summer 2023 where they will give six performances.

»
*High school students
visit the Halle Residenz.*



Georgia Southern University

\$46,362

THE UNIVERSITY received support to enable ten students to participate in its Bamberg, Germany “mini-mester”: a six-week intensive language and cultural experience in Bavaria in summer 2023.

Georgia Southern University

\$43,505

THE FOUNDATION funding provided funding to help underwrite a 14 day trip to Germany for 16 music students at the University. During the trip, the trumpet ensemble will perform with German bands, work with German music schools, and visit German cultural sites.



» *The Georgia Southern trumpet ensemble.*

Uni-Bigband Halle

\$41,705

THE HALLE BIG BAND received funding for a nine-day trip to Georgia for its 32 members this fall. They will play a total of eight concerts in the Savannah (Halle’s sister city) area in conjunction with a variety of musical and cultural

organizations in the area, such as Georgia Southern and the Georgia Salzburger Society.

The Halle Big Band, who will be coming in September to perform in Savannah, Georgia.



University of Georgia

\$220,000

THE FOUNDATION has extended its funding commitment to the University of Georgia's German-Engineering Karlsruhe experiential learning program. This program, which is featured at length in this issue, includes one month of intensive German

language training, a semester of instruction at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, and a semester-long internship in Germany. This funding is expected to support 22 participants in the program.

Paderborn Choir

\$100,000

THE PADERBORN YOUTH CHOIR received funding for 65 choir members to make a visit to the United States in the Summer of 2023. While stateside, they will visit Greenwich, CT, New York City, and Atlanta. While in the US, they will

perform concerts, including at the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. On days without performances, participants will visit various cultural and historical sites.

Emory University

\$9,000

EMORY UNIVERSITY received funding for three students to travel to Germany for three weeks as part of a relationship with the Theodor Heuss Gymnasium (THG) in Essen, Germany. Each year, THG sends students to Atlanta to shadow

classes and job opportunities, and now this exchange will become bilateral with Emory students acting as teaching assistants in Essen.




*College Students attend an event
at the Halle Residenz in 2023.*

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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