



# Newsletter

## June 2008

*A quarterly publication for donors and friends of the Swiss-California Foundation.*

P: +1 (707) 565-6456  
F: +1 (707) 565-7231  
E: [info@swisscalifornia.com](mailto:info@swisscalifornia.com)  
W: [www.swisscalifornia.com](http://www.swisscalifornia.com)

**Swiss-California Foundation**  
401 College Ave., Suite D  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
United States of America

**Members of the Board:**  
Bruno Schurter, President  
Phillip H. Kalsched, Treasurer  
Ben Stone, Executive Director

*The Swiss-California Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are deductible to the extent of the law.*

## THANK YOU FOR THIS GREAT EXPERIENCE !



### Dear Donors and Friends:

My internship with the Swiss-California Foundation is near its end. More than eight months have passed

since I first arrived in California and time flew by very quickly. Various projects have been accomplished such as the 2008 International Trade Report for Sonoma County or a new recruiting booth for the Foundation. I've learned more about the United States than I ever anticipated!

Particularly, I would like to share my most important insight that I will take back home: the diversity of the United States. In all aspects of life I observed, I was and still am amazed by the in-

credible diversity this country offers.

It is now time to say "Goodbye," but even more importantly to say "Thank you."

There is no doubt that this year will shape my life. The opportunities I was given seemed endless, and I am very grateful to everyone who made this year possible.

America is known as the country of opportunities—and this is how I experienced my time here in Northern California.

In this newsletter, you will

read more about our next Fellow, Yvonne Hausmann, who will arrive in November 2008 to start her Fellowship Program. And you will find an interview on the back page with the second Fellow of the Foundation, Mirjam Schönenberg-Lutz who came to California in 2002.

Thank you once again for the great time, your most generous support and please enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

*Philip Rauber*  
Fellow 2007-2008

## YVONNE HAUSMANN: 2008-2009 FOUNDATION FELLOW

The 8th Fellow of the Swiss-California Foundation is selected: Yvonne Hausmann. She will arrive in November 2008 to start her Fellowship Program with the Swiss-California Foundation.

Yvonne was selected from a competitive field of candidates, and we are proud to have such a well-qualified Fellow for next year.

Particularly, many thanks go again to the great recruiting efforts of Stefan Schneeberger and Tom Neidecker, who conducted all the interviews and did such a fantastic job! Thank you, Tom and Stefan!

Yvonne will graduate from the University of St. Gallen this coming fall (2008) with a bachelor's degree in "International Affairs and

Governance."

During her studies, she also gained professional experience while working for the "Institute for Social Enterprise" of the University of St. Gallen where she was responsible for mentoring scholarship holders as well as organizing guest lectures. Furthermore, she was a member of the 2008 University of St. Gallen delegation



to the “Model United Nations” in New York, and is a board member of Amnesty International at the University. She likes playing volleyball and karate and also plays the clarinet in her spare time. Finally, she is fluent in German, English, and French and is a beginner in Arabic.

Yvonne applied for the Swiss-California Foundation Fellowship Program because she sees this program as an excellent opportunity to gain a wide range of experiences and insights into the culture of the United States. “This is

a tremendous opportunity for me. The Fellowship Program will complement my

***“The SCF Fellowship Program is a great way to extend my horizon and I look forward to reaching out to a new country and new people and learn more about the US.”***

education in international affairs and governance with hands-on training and insights into a wide range of

aspects of the American culture and way of life,” she said.

When asked for her hopes and dreams for her coming year, she mentioned the chance to learn more about the country as well as the mentality, to build a network, to face new challenges and to improve her English.

*Yvonne, thank you so much for your valuable time and the interview. We are delighted to have you as our next Fellow and we are all looking forward to your arrival in November 2008!*

— **Announcement** —

As of June 2008, the Swiss-California Foundation has a new president, *Bruno Schurter*, President and CEO of Schurter, Inc. We are looking forward to his leadership and expertise.

Likewise, we would like to express our gratitude to *Phillip Kalsched* for his tremendous effort and leadership as president over the past seven years. We wish him all the best for his future endeavors.

## SIX QUESTIONS FOR MIRJAM SCHÖNENBERG-LUTZ, FORMER SCF FELLOW



<b>Hometown</b>	Staufen AG, Switzerland
<b>Age</b>	30 (November 21, 1977)
<b>Fellowship</b>	2002-2003: <i>Second</i> Fellow of the Foundation.
<b>Occupation</b>	Executive Board Member and IT - Project Manager with Oepfelbaum IT Management AG
<b>Languages</b>	German, English, French, & Spanish
<b>Personal</b>	Married since 2007
<b>Interests</b>	Volleyball (indoor and beach), mountain biking

**1. Can you describe the most important learning experiences during your Fellowship Program?**

I had many liberties during my work for the Swiss-California Foundation. As a result of this, I really learned to work independently, to bring in my own ideas, and especially to trust in my abilities.

**2. What was the largest challenge for you during your Fellowship program?**

Visiting all the wineries in Sonoma County... ☺

**3. What were the most important benefits from your Fellowship year in California?**

The many friendships I could gain. Some of them are still ongoing.

**4. What did you like best during your time here?**

I really appreciated the diversity the program offered. Besides working for the EDB and the SCF, I was able to do two three-week internships at Robert Mondavi and Schurter Inc. This allowed me to get additional insight into the business of American companies. However, I cannot deny that I really loved the Californian sun!

**5. Can you tell us a little bit about what you are doing in your job today?**

After returning to Switzerland, I worked at a software company, which develops a core banking system. After two years in the release management team, I needed a new challenge, and I started with my brother’s company “oepfelbaum [apple tree]”. The company is positioned in the business triangle of banking, IT, and trading business. In the meantime, I got the possibility to become a shareholder, and I am a member of the executive board. However, since the company is still small, I am working 90% as an external employee in a project for a Swiss private bank implementing a new core banking system. I am head of the project stream release management, and I am involved in the project stream accounting.

**6. Finally, you have the last word...**

I had an unforgettable stay in California, and I very often think back to this time. I can only encourage young people to apply for this program and to widen their horizons.

*Mirjam, thank you so much for your valuable time and the interview.*