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For Alfred

SHIRLEY GEOK-LIN LIM
University of California, Santa Barbara

Alfred's scholarly reputation preceded him before I met him personally, so when he invited me to give a lecture to his American studies graduate students at his university in Mainz, Germany, I was both honored and intimidated. He was a warm, generous host, and I was amazed to learn that his American studies graduate program was the largest not only in Europe but perhaps also including the United States. At more than one hundred Masters and PhD candidates, Alfred reigned over a veritable kingdom in the ancient city. Many of the graduate students at my lecture were from the People's Republic of China, as many from other nations where English was a second language, but all who listened and asked sharp question were clearly engaged with the theoretical foundations of transnational American studies. They saw Alfred as a mentor to their intellectual growth and professional goals. I recalled going for a dinner with Alfred and a few selected students who were clearly comfortable in this cosmopolitan European city, an evening that demonstrated to me how a scholar-administrator can succeed in diplomatic relations more than politicians of any party. This insight into Alfred's stature holds also for what he has achieved as editor of *JTAS* over these many years of US turmoil, planetary crises, and university strains. We all, scholars, academics, writers, theorists, and multidisciplinary fellows, owe a debt to Alfred's intrepid leadership, his calm oversight over special issues that has resulted in *JTAS*'s continued advancement of American studies in all its shades, nuances, intersections, and mobility into our current digital era. I salute his integrity that has guided the journal through thickets of controversy.