

EDITORIAL

Dear alumni of the University of Bremen,



We have had a very eventful year. The most important change was the restructuring of community bremen e.V. In addition to introducing and administrating membership dues, we have already been able to emphasize initial features and bring them

to life in this newsletter. Our annual general assembly took place in October 2014 and the new Board of Directors was elected for the next four years. With approximately 30 alumni at the general assembly, we discussed the future direction of the association and are certain we are on the right path.

The community bremen e.V. administrative office and the Board of Directors wish

you and your families a lovely holiday season, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

With kind regards



Derk H. Schönfeld
Managing Director community bremen e.V.

General assembly confirms the Board of Directors

The old Board of Directors almost is the new Board of Directors of community bremen e.V. The elections for the four-year term on the Board of Directors were on the agenda at the general assembly of the alumni network. The Board of the Directors' team and the chairman Dr. Tim Neseemann were confirmed by a secret ballot with a consistently convincing result. Dr. Matthias Witt withdrew from the current Board of Directors for professional reasons. Bernd Hesse of Bremen is new to the Board of Directors though he has been co-opted for quite some time.

At the general assembly, the Board of Directors reviewed the previous fiscal year again. It was

characterized by several substantial changes: Derk Schönfeld took over the position of Managing Director of the organization's administrative office, the introduction of membership dues, which were passed in 2013 by the general assembly in order to financially secure the association long-term. Furthermore the development and introduction of new forms of communication among alumni and the restructuring of those activities, which contribute to a stronger cooperation in alumni work in the departments.

As a result, the association was able to consolidate very successfully during this difficult year. The network currently comprises approximately 1,300 members

and is growing. After the bylaws were changed in 2013, nearly 50 students have become members. Thanks to the membership dues, the association now has a strong financial foundation to pursue its activities without external funding. In the summer, the cooperation agreement with the University of Bremen was extended thereby securing the reciprocal support of the network and the university in the long-term. Starting this year, the Humboldt Foundation will support our efforts to expand our international alumni activities. In the future, new event formats and increased activities on social networks will contribute towards making community bremen e.V.'s alumni work more attractive.

At the community bremen e.V. board meeting on December 4th 2014, the tasks of the board members have been defined: Dr. Tim Neseemann is again CEO. Michael Wolff is first vice-chairman, Christopher Sodemann retains his position as second deputy chairman. Dr.-Ing. Reinhard Ahlers is treasurer, Dr. Katherina Vatsella remains secretary. Andreas Kottisch, Zion Yirga and Bernd Hesse are assessors.

INHALT

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6 QUESTIONS
FOR...Yanbing Mao



New Deputy Head of
Teaching & Studies

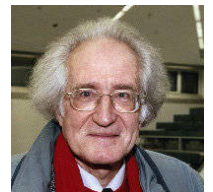
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week was
a complete success

6 QUESTIONS FOR ...

In each newsletter we will ask six questions to one alumnus about their time in Bremen.

In this edition we asked Yanbing Mao to answer.

Would you like to answer our six questions as well? Contact Jacqueline Sprindt at our office at alumni@unibremen.de

1. When did you study at the University of Bremen and why did you choose Bremen?

I started studying International Economic Relations in the Department of Economic Sciences at the University of Bremen in 2002 and earned my Master's degree. The beautiful landscape and culture of the city and the internationalization study project at the University of Bremen are what drew me.

2. What were your most important experiences at the University of Bremen?

The high German language and research methods are very important and helpful for my future life and work. It was also difficult for me to find a place in a student dorm during that time. At the MZH, where we spent a lot of time, getting in touch with family and friends online.

3. Who or what has influenced your career the most?

The internationalization and intercultural communication offered me the opportunity of talking to and learning to understand people from different countries. The professors in Department



07 are patient and serious in their support of our studies and research.

4. What would you like to pass on to students at the University of Bremen?

I would like to recommend to the students, in particular, foreign students, that they not only choose courses in their own subject, but also attend courses in other subjects. And don't just stay at the university,

but integrate into society.

5. What do you think about the University of Bremen? Complete this sentence: „The University of Bremen is...

...public, international, big, complicated when in GW2 and exciting.“

6. What does community bremen e.V. mean to you? Complete this sentence: „For me, community bremen e.V. is...

...a bridge to stay connected to all the memories at the University of Bremen, a platform to

„The University of Bremen is public, international, big, complicated when in GW2 and exciting“

get to know everyone who has had similar experiences there and a channel for staying up-to-date on the most recent developments at the university and the in the city of Bremen.“

New science blog “Impulse” from the University of Bremen

The new University of Bremen science blog „Impulse“ presents research topics from all of the departments at the University of Bremen: Why is discussion of the „unjust state“ among the younger generation from the former GDR so limited? Why is the hole in the ozone getting larger again? Where is the EU asylum policy pushing its boundaries? With new contributions coming in continuously on topics in the humanities, natural and social sciences and engineering, excellent discussion points from the university will be presented to the outside world according to Professor Dr. Kurosch Rezwan, Deputy Head of Research and Young Scientists at the University of Bremen. Readers can contact the author and discuss the topic using the comment function. Join the conversation!

You can find „Impulse“ at www.uni-bremen.de/impulse

New DFG-funded research group on need-based justice for the University of Bremen

The German Research Association (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)) has decided to establish a research group for „need-based justice and distribution procedures“ at the University of Bremen. The research group will consist of a total of eleven scientists from the Universities of Bremen, Hamburg, Oldenburg and Vienna and Jacobs University Bremen, from the philosophy, political sciences, psychology and economics departments.

Professor Stefan Traub, political scientist, Professor Frank Nullmei-

er, Tanja Pritzlaff from the Center for Social Politics and Professor Dagmar Borchers from the Institute for Philosophy will be the participants from Bremen.

The research group will examine the question of how need can be identified on an individual level and on the social level. Does the process of need recognition lead to a stable result, and which economic incentive effects result in need-based distribution? Precise analyses of the social state will then be performed based on the results of the group's research.

Thomas Hoffmeister is the new Deputy Head of Teaching and Studies

The position of Deputy Head of Teaching and Studies has been filled: Professor Dr. Thomas Hoffmeister from the Department of Biology/Chemistry assumed the office on October 1, 2014. Hoffmeister, who has taught at the University of Bremen since 2004, is an internationally recognized expert in the field of biological control. In addition, he was Dean of the Department of Biology/Chemistry for several years.

It is particularly important to Hoffmeister to further

reinforce Bremen's „research-based learning“ profile: „Research-based learning motivates students to acquire skills and knowledge and supports

the process of becoming critically thinking scientific personalities.“ Other important priorities for Hoffmeister include quality assurance in teaching and promoting the internationalization of courses. He does, however, see difficulties ahead in the light of insufficient basic funding from the budget defined in the 2020 science plan. He believes the university faces a painful debate that will have to be held in the near future.



The University as an economic factor

The University of Bremen is one of the largest employers in Bremen and, for decades, has spent large quantities of its third-party funding (acquired externally through competitions) in the city. It has been an Excellence University since 2012 and will receive a total of €86 million up until 2017 as a result. According to the new study „Science as an Economic Factor in Bremen“ from the German Institute for Scientific Research DIW ECON, almost half of the total gross value-creation effect attributable to science in the State of Bremen (amounting to approximately €790 million per

annum) comes solely from the University of Bremen. The economic leverage factor of contributions from the University of Bremen is at 2.7 according to the study; every euro provided by the state for the University of Bremen results in 2.7 times the value creation. This is far more than other universities.

Summarizing the university's significant role for science and economics, Rector Prof. Dr. Bernd Scholz-Reiter said that „The University of Bremen works extremely efficiently and is currently an important economic factor and, with its education and innovation potential, secures the future sustainability of the state.

Living to help (Wohnen für Hilfe)

The „Wohnen für Hilfe“ project will start in Bremen on January 13. On behalf of the Senator for Social Affairs and the Bremen Student Union, the project will bring two groups together that can support each other: students and seniors. The latter often live alone and want company,

and may also require support with simply daily tasks such as shopping, gardening or using computers. On the other hand, students are often looking for an affordable place to live. The rule of thumb of „Wohnen für Hilfe“ is: Per m² of living space, the student provides one hour of support per month (max.

25 hours per person). The students will pay their own utility costs. The project thus offers attractive benefits for both sides and promotes cooperative living.

You can find additional information about the project at <http://www.wohnen-fuer-hilfe-bremen.de/>.

>right here<: The University of Bremen honors female mid-level academics and scientists in a photographic exhibition

This photographic exhibition >right here< in the Glass Hall in the central area of the University of Bremen will continue until February 28, 2015: Portraits of 30 female academics and scientists representing all of the departments at the University of Bremen are hanging in the Glass Hall as large format posters with selected quotations and can be seen from the inside or outside. The women, who represent a variety of different nationalities, are introduced through pictures, short German-English biographical texts and quotations. They all work at the University of Bremen as doctoral students, post-docs, lecturers or as new group leaders.

The women portrayed represent only a small portion of the more than 800 female mid-level academic scientists at the University of Bre-

men. This means the university is far above the federal average; however, there is still a gender imbalance in the scientific world. The exhibition aims to help illuminate the reasons for this, establish a presence at the university for the female scientists shown, and acknowledge their achievements.

The portraits were taken by Julia Baier, an alumna of the University of Bremen who has worked as a freelance photographer since 1998.

She has received several awards for her work. Birgit Windgrat is the curator and designer of the exhibition.



Picture: Birgit Windgrat

NEW: Networks from, for and with alumni!

Alumni meet alumni – this is the motto our network plans to follow more intensely. Starting in January 2015, we will regularly organize events for members every four to six weeks. The approach: As an „after-work event“, the host or hostess will present informative and interesting topics from science, industry and the private sector or the institution they work for. After the presentation the alumni will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic presented. Afterwards there will be a get-together and alumni will be able to continue their discussions, deepen their understanding as well as gain new contacts. If you would like to host such an event, please contact the alumni administrative office by e-mail alumni@uni-bremen.de or by phone (0421) 218 60333.

MARUM, the Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen will kick-off the series on January 21st, 2015 (cf. details below). The main objective of the research conducted at MARUM is to improve our understanding



Heiko Pälke from the MARUM

of the key processes within the marine environment and thereby gaining useful information on sustainable use of the oceans. We will have the opportunity to examine sediment cores, which developed millions of year ago on the deep sea floor. To protect the integrity of the cores they are stored in a hall cooled to four degree Celsius. We can learn interesting facts about the climate in the past and the lessons science can le-

arn for the present. As a Cluster of Excellence, the research center represents one of the three pillars, on which the university was successful in the federal and state Excellence Initiative for the Promotion of Science and Research. After the tour, which will take approximately one hour, there will be a get-together for guests.

Date: Wednesday, 1/21/2015

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: MARUM - Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen, Leobener Strasse, 28359 Bremen

ATTENTION: As space is limited to 25 persons, please plan ahead and send us your RSVP by e-mail (alumni@uni-bremen.de) or telephone (0421/218-69777).

On February 26th, 2015, we will be a part of the

initiation of a truly special event series: **“Excellence in 60 Minutes”** is a new lecture format at the University of Bremen, which kicks off in

February (cf. below for details). In this format four scientists and researchers have exactly 60 minutes to introduce themselves and report on their research at the University of Bremen. Overall the format series will present a mixture of topics from natural and engineering sciences as well as social sciences and humanities. The speakers have two things in common: They all receive funding through the Excellence Initiati-

ve and are all doing research in the important issues of our time – and providing answers to the public. The presentations will be followed by get-togethers. The general public is welcome to attend to these events. We have organized specially marked tables for alumni where they can meet and talk.

Date: Thursday, 2/26/2015

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Bremen Chamber of Commerce, Am Markt 13, 28195 Bremen

ATTENTION: The number of participants is not limited, however you are asked to send us your RSVP via e-mail (alumni@uni-bremen.de) or telephone (0421/218-69777).

On March 4, 2015, our program continues with a visit to the **Bremen State Parliament**. Our alumnus and MdBB (Member of Bremen's State Parliament) Andreas Kottisch will give us a tour of Bremen's parliament building. After the tour, a panel discussion in the plenary chamber with representatives from all of the factions in the Bremen State Parliament on the topic of „The regional economic significance of universities, in particular, the University of Bremen“. In a nearby restaurant there will be an optional get-together for further discussions afterwards.

Date: Wednesday, 3/4/2015

Time: 5:30 PM (Get-together at ca. 7:00 PM)

Location: Bremische Bürgerschaft (Bremen State Parliament), Haus der Bürgerschaft, Am Markt 20, 28195 Bremen

ATTENTION: The number of participants is limited to 50 persons. Please register via e-mail (alumni@uni-bremen.de) or telephone (0421/218-69777).

Praxisbörse – the personnel transfer event at the University of Bremen

The next Praxisbörse will take place on May 7, 2015. Companies and institutions will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to University of Bremen

students directly on campus. Every year, approximately 100 companies and institutes



and several thousand students take advantage of this opportunity to meet face-to-face. Exhibi-

tors can register for the Praxisbörse until January 16, 2015.

Additional information is available at www.uni-bremen.de/praxisboerse

Bremer conflict and peace researcher among the top 50 in German political sciences

Dieter Senghaas, retired University of Bremen professor and current Senior Fellow at the University's Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIS), has been described in the recently published book, „German Political Scientists – Works and Effects“ by Eckhard Jesse and Sebastian Liebold, as an excellent political scientist who „influenced an entire generation of people in the field of peace studies, the peace movement and development policy



„scene“. The 50 most significant German political scientists are presented in the book.

Dieter Senghaus is proud of his achievement

as one of the founders of the InIS in the 1990s. He started the institute with his colleagues Michael Zürn and Bernhard Peters, and with the support of the Bremer Senate. According to Senghaus, in light of the current, somewhat chaotic global situation, research in this field is more important than ever, and the University of Bremen with its Institute for Intercultural and International Studies is excellently equipped for such research with regard to its resources and personnel.

Students develop a device for measuring water quality

With their device for measuring the cleanliness of drinking water, five students from the electrical engineering department at the University of Bremen have won first prize at the largest student competition in the field of microsystems technology, COSIMA (Competition of Students in Microsystems Applications). The students, Theodor Hillebrand, Yannick Auth, David Horch, Maik Taddiken and Konstantin Tscherkaschin, carried out the research during their free time, for just under a year. The result: A narrow tube called a Scipio (Scientific Purification Indicator). It could significantly contribute

toward improving the quality of drinking water in equatorial countries in Africa, Indonesia and South America.

The Scipio team plans to perform series of measurements until the summer of 2015, and will continue to improve the device. „We had fun. We didn't want to develop a gadget, we wanted a device that would help people and is useful,“ said Yannick Auth about the team's motivation.

Additional information is available at www.project-scipio.de

2014 Bremer Climate Protection Prize Bremen

Dr. Doris Sövegjarto-Wigbers, environmental coordinator and lecturer at the University of Bremen, was awarded the 2014 Bremen Climate Protection Prize for her work in the field of climate protection.

Sövegjarto-Wigbers studied chemistry and earned her doctorate at the University of Bremen. She has been an employee and lecturer since 1997 and the university's environmental coordinator since 2002. In this position, she manages the environmental management systems. In 2011, she co-founded the Solar Association at the University of Bremen, which now has 131 members and operates six solar energy systems.

Bremer underwater vehicle wins European competition

Inspecting and mapping underwater structures, finding damaged areas in harbor walls and cooperating with autonomous vehicles on the surface of the water – these tasks were all part of the „Student Autonomous Underwater Challenge – Europe“, or SAUC-E for short (in Italian, La Spezia).

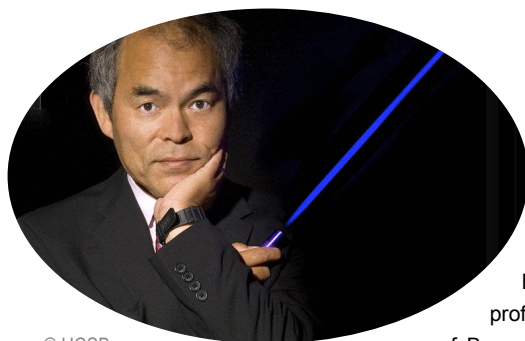
No problem for the student team of the University of Bremen robotics work group, working under the supervision of Professor Dr. Frank

Kirchner: They won at the ninth SAUC-E with their underwater vehicle, Avalon. The basic structure of the vehicle was developed by University of Bremen students between 2007 and 2008 in cooperation with the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence. Since then, it has been continuously revised and improved.

The Bremer team shared first place with the French team SAUC'ISSE from Brittany.



2014 Nobel Prize awarded to the Bremen University honorary professor Shuji Nakamura



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Shuji Nakamura, Professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara and honorary professor at the University of Bremen has been awarded

the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physics. Nakamura and the other prizewinners, Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano, received the award for their development of light-emitting diodes (LED) that emit blue light. The Nobel Prize for Physics is a

monetary prize of €880,000.

The University Rector Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter shared his excitement about the award, telling us „The Nobel Prize award not only honors the university, but Bremen as a center of science.“

3. Bremer Turkey week was a complete success

The third annual Turkey week took place in Bremen in mid-November. Under the auspices of the Bremer Senator for Sciences, Prof. Dr. Eva Quante-Brandt, the week was organized by the University and Technical University of Bremen. Scientists discussed their research results with the Bremer public at 21 events. They discussed sociopolitical developments, science and culture in Turkey.

There was a particularly high level of interest in the discussions about risks to the freedom of press and women's rights posed by recent political decisions made by the Turkish government, and civil resistance in Turkey from social movements that oppose those decisions. Films, readings and concerts provided insights into the Turkish cultural scene.

The Deputy Head of the University of Bremen Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu gives a positive review after the eventful week: „New contacts between German and Turkish academics and scientists were made and existing relationships were deepened. It is important for us to maintain contact with our scientific colleagues from Turkey in light of the current political situation and make our research results available to the public.“

Unique in Germany: Refugees study at the University of Bremen

War, violence, repression: more and more people have fled their home countries and now seek refuge in Bremen. Many of them studied in their home countries. At the University of Bremen they have the opportunity to keep their academic skills up to date and develop them by attending seminars and lectures. The pilot project „InTouch“ is unique in Germany, however in order to move forward they require sponsors.

Out of 30 participants seven have received their certificate. „Everybody was highly motivated from the beginning,“ says the head of the transition home Moussa Dieng. But ultimately because of the language barrier many have failed. However, it should not be seen as unproductive for these participants because many of them now want to expand their knowledge of German to be able to take part in the program again later. „People have flourished through the program,“ he says.

„InTouch“ will continue this winter semester with about 30 participants. However, in order to ensure its future, the

University requires sponsors and third parties. „People do not just need a shelter, food and security, but also intellectual nourishment“, says the Vice Rector for Intercultural and International Affairs, Professor Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu. Overall, the project is a win-win situation. „In a few years we will have fewer students and therefore it's good to motivate also people from other countries“, said Karakaşoğlu.

Interested sponsors can contact the International Office at jkemper@uni-bremen.de.



Youssef Fakie, Moussa Dieng and Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu looking for sponsors for the project „InTouch“.

The University of Bremen is a popular research location

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awards more than 2,000 scholarships and research grants to researchers every year. This gives highly qualified foreign scientists the opportunity to stay in Germany to conduct research.

The University of Bremen is a popular research location for many scholarship holders.

Bremen welcomes the world as its guest:

Dr. Hao Wang has been working

in the laboratory for microcutting (LFM) at the University of Bremen since August 2014. In cooperation with the directors of the LFM, Professor Dr. Ekkard Brinksmeier and Dr. Ottmann Riemer, he will spend a year working on his research project. „The LFM has an excellent reputation worldwide. I am very happy to have the opportunity of performing my research here,“ says the 33-year-old Dr. Wang.

The renowned Chancellor Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation allowed the Indian researcher **Dhana Vijayan**

to spend a year researching in Germany. She is implementing her research project in the „Social and Political Ecology“ work group.

The American Slavist **Dr. Yakov Klots** from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta was also drawn to Bremen. „I chose the University of Bremen because the Eastern European research department possesses unique documents about the literary life of the Russian emigrants in Europe and the USA,“ Klots explains. „I can't find such excellent research conditions anywhere else.“

Dr. Alex Makulilo is also a Humboldt scholarship holder at the University of Bremen. Since the beginning of November, he has been researching at the University of Bremen Law Department's Institute for Information, Health and Medical Law (IGMR) as part of a study of the implementation of data protection laws in Africa. „I chose the University of Bremen especially because of its international reputation, the excellent research conditions and its diversified promotion of international cooperations.“

About:

All of the used pictures in the Newsletter are taken from the University of Bremen's press office, if not marked differently.

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