

EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



Shortly after Easter, we send you the second 2015 issue of our Newsletter. On the following pages, you will once again find several articles on new developments at the University of Bremen and on what's going on in the association. Our university is celebrating a special success: it was recently awarded four ERC Consolidator grants, one of the most highly remunerated funding awards in the European Union. We have just introduced new member

IDs, our membership is growing continuously and the new events in the „Networking from, for and with alumni“ series are actively drawing attendees. I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter.

Best regards from the campus,

D. Schönfeld
Derk Schönfeld

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The New University of Bremen Yearbook

„Halftime for excellence“: That is the main theme of the University of Bremen 2014 yearbook.

It includes brief introductions to people and projects who have been funded as part of the university's „ambitious and agile“ initiative. This includes the Creative Unit run by media scientist Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp, which works with top research institutes on campus, in the

state of Bremen and on an international level, inspired by the example of information sciences professor, Dr. Ron Kikinis.

Other topics in the yearbook include research-based learning in education, the promotion of equal opportunity at the University of Bremen and „Global Questions - Bremer Responses“.

As in every yearbook, the Uni-Chronik and a list of 2013/2014 graduates can also be found in this year's issue.

Alumni can obtain the German/English publication from community bremen e.V. You can also find additional articles, links, photos and films online [HERE](#).



community bremen e.V. News



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We now have **1500 members!** We are delighted to announce that our network is growing steadily. *community bremen e.V.* has also recently sent out the **new member IDs** to all of our support members in the network. All other members can obtain their IDs by contacting Jacqueline Sprindt at our offices.

Contact:

Telephone: 0421 218 69 777

Email: alumni@uni-bremen.de

Alumni Events Enjoy High Attendance

The „Networking from, for and with alumni“ series from community bremen e.V. has already hosted two successful events. At the end of February 2015, alumni gathered for the special event „Excellence in 60 minutes“ during which four scientists, who have received funding from the excellence initiative, gave a 60-minute talk introducing themselves and their research at the University of Bremen. The alumni met at specially marked tables and were able to engage in conversation. These conversations were then continu-

ed at the get-together afterwards.

At the beginning of March, at the invitation of alumnus Andreas Kottisch, the alumni visited the Bremen parliament. We discussed the topic of „Regional economic significance of Universities, in particular, the University of Bremen“ with economic policy spokespersons from the CDU, SPD and the Linke. Afterwards we went to the nearby restaurant, „Ständige Vertretung“ for casual conversation.

You can find information on upcoming events in the „Networking from, for and with alumni“ [HERE](#).



Alumni at the Bürgerschaft of Bremen
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Manfred and Ursula Fluß Foundation Established



f.l.t.r.: Manfred and Ursula Fluß, chancellor of the University Bremen Dr. Martin Mehrrens and head of the University Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter

The Manfred and Ursula Fluß Foundation was established on March 31, 2015 when the namesakes of the foundation and long-term sponsors of the University of Bremen, Manfred and Ursula Fluß, and the Chairman of the Board of the University of Bremen Foundation, Dr. Martin Mehrrens, signed the bylaws and trustee agreement. In the future, the foundation will sponsor the University of Bremen, with a particular focus on issuing scholarships and supporting scientific symposia and research projects.

„I feel connected to the University of Bremen

in a number of ways,” says Manfred Fluß, former Bremen Finance Minister and Member of the Bremen Parliament. „I have actively accompanied its development from its origins through to becoming an excellence university.“

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter, University Dean and member of the board of trustees of the new trustee foundation, is thrilled about the couple's dedication: „I know Manfred Fluß to be a dedicated advocate of science and I appreciate him as a consultant. I am therefore particularly pleased that the Flußes will remain connected to my university in the future.“

6 QUESTIONS FOR ...

In every newsletter, we ask a member six questions about his or her time in Bremen. For this issue, we interviewed Ute Treptow. If you would also like to appear in this section, please contact Jacqueline Sprindt at the office at alumni@uni-bremen.de.

Ute Treptow studied Law and Political Science at the University of Bremen. After passing her state exam, she worked for the Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB (Federation of German Trade Unions)). After Germany's reunification, she played a crucial role in establishing DGB legal protection in the new states. She has been a Member of the Bremen Parliament, Director of European Affairs at the University of Oldenburg and has worked as an attorney in the field of corporate consulting and in the insurance sector. She has now turned her hobby into a profession and is self-employed as a travel companion for exclusive readers' tours. Ute Treptow also manages the Böckler Foundation former scholarship holders' network and is hoping to establish connections. Contact her at: ute.treptow@bremen.de

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

I studied in Bremen from 1981 to 1990. Before that, I worked as Deputy Director of the Bafög (federal financial aid) Department at the university. As a Bremen native, I only considered Bremen as it offered single-phase legal education.

2. What was your most important experience at the University of Bremen?

It was the greatest time of my life. There were

intense discussions between students and professors. But we didn't just have discussions, we also learned a lot, but not by memorization. I am still grateful for the fact that I really learned how to work scientifically. We studied in small groups and there was enough time to be active in the student administration. So I was in both AstA and, later on, the training staff council. There were only 110 law students per year, so we knew each other and were in close contact. I still enjoy the friendships I made at the time.

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

Of course my previous professional qualifications played a role, but the funding from the Hans-Böckler Foundation played an even greater role. Having worked in an interdisciplinary foundation work group on genetic engineering, I was able to implement those skills in my project-based course of studies at the university. My three semesters at the University of Zurich were also something special back then.

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

Today's course of studies is no longer comparable to what I experienced at the University of Bremen. Still, I can only recommend that

every student go abroad. Studying for a few semesters abroad or the travel and work program are experiences that ultimately make you a more liberal-minded and tolerant person. And students shouldn't be afraid to look for mentors among alumni and at foundations.



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

... the place that most influenced my life. First, in my position at the Bafög Department and later, as a student and long-term AstA speaker on social affairs. My legal studies taught me crucial information that is still important to me today and which has significantly influenced my life.“

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

... a connection to the University of Bremen and the opportunity to make new connections or reconnect with old contacts. It is also an opportunity to establish connections for the Hans-Böckler Foundation former scholarship holders' network, which I played a significant role in setting up.“

„It was the greatest time of my life.“

University of Bremen Celebrates the Opening of the MARUM Pavilion

The Center for Marine Environmental Sciences, MARUM for short is one of the world's premier oceanic research institutes. Due to the constant growth of the institute, it has had to expand, and for this reason the MARUM Pavilion

was constructed. The University of Bremen has now opened the new building, which boasts striking architecture.

The pavilion provides offices for a total of 35 scientists and an approximately 100 m² work space.



You can get an impression of the new building [HERE](#).

Awards for Concepts in Foreign Language Didactics

Two new teaching concepts in English foreign language didactics at the University of Bremen have recently been awarded prizes. The „Forschendes Lernen in der Englischdidaktik (ForschEND (Research-based learning in English Didactics))“ project will now receive funding of €15,000. The focal points of this project include the anchoring of practical references in the Bachelor curriculum and the integration of heterogeneous educational requirements for

students.

For the second project, during the 2014/2015 winter semester, students on the Master of Education program researched the connection between theory and practice in teaching courses of study. The concept was awarded €10,000.

Both concepts were developed under the leadership of English Studies professors Sabine Doff and Dr. Regine Komoss, Managing Director of the Center for Teacher Training.

„Innovation Award“ Goes to Bremen Doctoral Candidate

Dr.-Ing. Cord Winkelmann from the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Bremen has been awarded the „Innovation Award“ from the Schaeffler FAG Foundation for his dissertation on sensory surfaces. The microsystems engineer received first prize, which includes €10,000 from the foundation, for his dissertation on sensory surfaces. Dr. Winkelmann has developed a method for equipping roller bearings with sensors on a

running surface. The objective of this process is to measure the forces in effect. In the laudatory speech, this method was praised as „absolutely pioneering work“. Cord Winkelmann has since taken the idea of sensory surface monitoring of machines and system components and started his own company, a university spin-off company, called „Winkelmann Mikrosysteme“.

Science Award for Bremen Alumnus

Our fellow association member, the production engineer, Dr. Fabian Meder, young alumnus of the University of Bremen, has been awarded the Science Award from the Oldenburgischen Landesbank (OLB (Oldenburg State Bank)) Foundation. He received 1st place for his

doctoral thesis on nanomaterials, a prize he shares with Andreas Schönfeld from the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. In total, seven young scientists from the northwest region were awarded prizes.

This is not Dr. Fabian Meder's first award. In 2012, he received the „Acta Student Award 2012“ for a technical article in the trade journal „Acta Biomaterialia“.



Dr. Fabian Meder (second from left) at the prize giving ceremony
© OLB-Stiftung/Markus Hibbeler

Excellent Research: The University of Bremen Receives Four Awards from the European Research Council

Four professors from the University of Bremen were recently awarded the ERC Consolidator Grant, one of the most distinguished and highly coveted grants for researchers in all of Europe.

Prof. Dr. Rita Groß-Hardt (Biology), Dr. Rebekka von Mallinckrodt (History), Prof. Dr. Andreas Fischer-Lescano (Law) and Prof. Dr. Carsten Lutz (Computer Sciences) will each receive approximately €2 million in funding

for their projects from the European Research Council (ERC) over the next five years. „These awards show that we are among the top competitive research universities in Europe,“ says Professor Kuroschi Rezwan, Deputy Dean of the University of Bremen. „I am particularly happy that our colleagues from a wide range of disciplines have come out on top against strong international competition.“



„Networking from, for and with alumni“: Upcoming Events

The „Networking from, for and with alumni“ series has made quite an impression; the last two events were a complete success. In response to this, yet more great events have been planned for the upcoming months.

The events continue on **May 9, 2015** with a **Career consultation workshop** at the University of Bremen. The offer is primarily aimed at alumni who already have some professional experience, but young professionals are also very welcome. At the interactive workshop (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), three central topics will be discussed with an experienced coach and a so-called “recruiter” (formerly headhunter) from „c-level42“: „What is the right professional fit for me?“, „How do I build my own brand?“ and

„How do I find a new job?“ In addition to these topics, which will be discussed in the forum and in work groups, there will be time for individual questions and networking.

Since the number of participants is limited to 30, we request that you book by email or on the telephone. A fee of €10 will be charged (catering included). If possible, we ask participants to bring their laptop/tablet.

On **June 11, 2015**, at the invitation of MP Carsten Sieling, the alumni association will **visit the German Bundestag**. At 12:00, the participants will be expected at the Bremen State Representatives' Office in Berlin. After a presentation on the topic of „Political work, Bremen in Berlin and Brussels“, lunch will be provided. Then the participants will continue to the Bun-

destag. There, the alumni will have the opportunity of attending a Bundestag plenary session. Later, at 4.00 p.m., Mr. Sieling will be available to discuss the topic of „State fiscal equalization/ reorganization of federal-state matters“.

Since the number of participants is limited to 17, we request that you book by email or on the telephone. The trip is being funded by the German Bundestag so we are able to travel to Berlin as a group for a fee of €20 per person.

Registration and further information:

community bremen e.V.

Jacqueline Sprindt

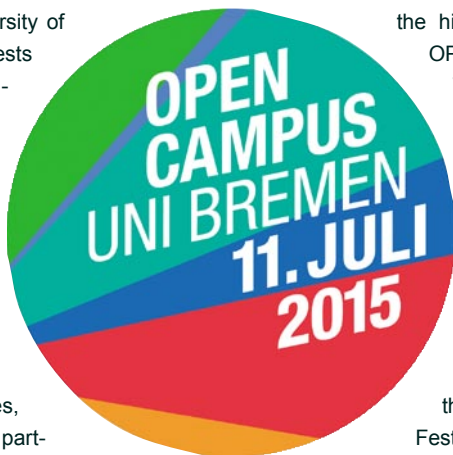
Telephone: 0421/218-69777

Email: alumni@uni-bremen.de

www.uni-bremen.de/alumni

Save the Date: Alumni Summer Festival and OPEN CAMPUS!

On Saturday, July 11th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. the University of Bremen will welcome guests to the second OPEN CAMPUS. This year's theme is “Opening worlds – Sharing knowledge” and the attendees will learn everything there is to know about the Excellence University of Bremen. At the heart of the university, the Campus Park, the faculties, research institutes and partners will present themselves under pagoda pavilions. In addition to a Science Slam and a colorful stage program, there will also be a lot for children to discover on the Kinder Campus (children's campus). Tours of institutes and labs, exciting lectures on current research topics and live music until midnight



round out the program. You will find the highlights of last year's OPEN CAMPUS **HERE**.

We think it is an excellent opportunity for alumni to visit their old alma mater!

In the run up to the OPEN CAMPUS venue, community bremen e.V will invite all alumni “plus one” to attend the first Alumni Summer Festival on Friday, July 10, 2015 starting at 6:00 pm. We want to meet in a relaxed, summery atmosphere and chat with friends and alumni while enjoying tasty treats from the BBQ and listening to good music. Details about our Summer Festival will be available soon. So, **save the date!**

„Aus den Akten auf die Bühne“ (From Files to Stage)

Dramatic readings from the „Aus den Akten auf die Bühne“ series will be performed on six dates, starting on May 19, 2015, 19:30, at the Theater am Leibnizplatz.

The readings were developed from original historical documents by students from the Institute for Historical Science at the University of Bremen in cooperation with the Bremen Shakespeare Company. The title of the series of events is „Prunk & Pleite einer Unterdynastie – der Konkurs der Nordwolle und die Bankenkrise 1931“ (Pomp & Insolvency of a Corporate Dynasty - Nordwolle's Bankruptcy and the 1931 Banking Crisis“

Entry: €13 / reduced €6

Tickets can be purchased by calling 500 333 or at **www.shakespeare-company.com**

For further information and all scheduled dates see:

www.sprechende-akten.de



History brought to life - that's what „from the file onto the stage“ does.

© bremer shakespeare company

Praxisbörse (University Job Fair) on May 7th 2015

On **May 7th 2015**, the university job fair will bring students and companies together: more than 70 regional employers from a wide range of business sectors will be looking for students and graduates from all faculties, with or without work experience to

fill job and internship positions. The job fair is free of charge and is open for all visitors.

For further information, please visit:

www.uni-bremen.de/praxisboerse

www.facebook.com/praxisboerseunibremen

Successful „Senior Citizens“ Project

Foreign students on English-speaking master's degree programs often want to get to know this country and its people – the „Senior Citizens“ project helps to make this happen. Students from the seniors' studies program and the ISATEC program (International Studies in Aquatic Tropical Ecology) have been working together to organize a variety of events for these students, for example a tour of the city and a visit to the Daimler factory. These events have given the overseas students an opportunity

to develop contacts outside of the university and improve their German skills. Seniors were chosen to work on the project because many of them have been abroad as part of their professional lives, they are familiar with the situation of having to find one's way in a foreign culture and language and they are happy to „be able

to give something back as senior students at the university in this manner.“

„Senior Citizens“ was founded by the international office and the Academy for Continuing Education at the University of Bremen. The successful program has since expanded to other English-speaking master's programs at the university. The Senior Citizens project was awarded the „International Campus“ prize by the University of Bremen in 2013 for its charitable contribution. If you want to take part or get more information about the Senior Citizens project, have a look around [HERE](#).



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Xenos e.V.: assistance for foreign students in need

Xenos e.V. is an association of Bremen universities which provides assistance to foreign students in need. It was founded with the objective of providing financial or material help by, for instance, covering the costs of rent or health insurance on a short-term basis. For more than 30 years, the association has provided help quickly and without bureaucracy. It aims to help students who may otherwise struggle with or have to discontinue their studies through circumstances beyond their control. These circumstances might include civil war and political upheaval in their native countries, but also missed scholarship payments, illnesses or accidents.

There has been a new board of directors since 2014, and Deputy Director, Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, is the chairman of the association. Along with the association's sponsor, former Rector Prof. Dr. Wilfried Müller, she is working to increase awareness of the association and recruit new supporters. With a small donation of only €5 per month, you can help a foreign student in need. Contact Xenos e.V. online at:

www.uni-bremen.de/xenos

Date announcement by the International Office:

19.6. & 20.6.2015
DAAD-Fellows Meeting

Interculturalism at Cameroon's Universities

A research seminar on the topic of interculturalism was organized at the beginning of February in cooperation with the University of Ngaoundéré, the University of Bremen's academic partner institution in Cameroon.

Cameroonian professor Léonie Tatou Metangmo's visit to Bremen marked the start of what will hopefully be a long-term and fruitful collaboration with the Bremen Cultural Studies Department led by Dr. Margrit Kaufmann. Initial conversations resulted in several shared research areas, leading to a quick decision to bring all of the interested colleagues together for a workshop including presentations and discussions.

This workshop recently took place in Kribi on Cameroon's

Atlantic coast. The topic of „Interculturalism and Language,“ as relates to the 200 different languages spoken in Cameroon, led to lively discussions. Other aspects which played a role included religious studies, geography and urban planning, different teaching methods and content or colonial history, the traces of which are particularly apparent in a German cemetery in Kribi and which were viewed with interest by the German participants.

After two days of intense discussion, a number of new ideas for collaboration were on the agenda, spanning from joint research projects through to student exchanges and which will enrich cooperation between the universities.



Participants of interculturalism workshop in Cameroon
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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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