

## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



before the summer break you receive the third community Bremen e.V. newsletter this year. You will find news from the club and from the University of Bremen on the following pages. I would like to invite you to our summer celebration on July 10th, 2015 and the Open Campus of the University of Bremen on July 11th, 2015. You can find further information about both events on page two of this newsletter. In August, we take a little break and continue our

series "networking from, for and with alumni" with a visit to the penitentiary Bremen in September. The executive board and the office of community bremen e.V. wish you a pleasant and warm summer.

Best regards from campus

*D. Schönfeld*  
Derk Schönfeld

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## Discounts for Alumni at the Academy of Further Education

The Academy of Further Education at the University of Bremen is its competence and service center for all issues of academic advanced training. It is an important element of the university as a place of lifelong learning.

Members of community bremen

e.V. now receive 20 percent discount on all courses of the seniors program, as well as on seminars in the field of „advanced vocational training“. Alumni who want to study in further education courses with degree of Master or certificate will get a discount in the amount of

their community bremen e.V membership fees.

The upcoming course „Lehrkompetenz für die Erwachsenenbildung“, taught in German, is aimed at lecturers in adult education and people who want to work in this field in future. The course deals

with how seminars can be planned and performed, how to deal with the dynamics in learning groups to optimize the learning success and how to choose suitable teaching methods. More information about the course can be found HERE.

## „Networking from, for and with Alumni“ in Berlin

On June 11, 2015, the alumni association was invited by MdB Dr. Carsten Sieling as part of our series „Networking from, for and with Alumni“ to visit the German Bundestag. In the early morning 14 alumni met at Bremen Central Station to make their way to Berlin. The three-hour train ride was used to get to know each other and to network. The participating alumni had different faculty backgrounds which made the group even more interesting. The Alumni Association CEO Derk Schönfeld, board member Bernd Hesse, Jacqueline Sprendt from the office and Yvonne Asendorf, student assistant of the association, also took part in the trip.

Upon arrival in Berlin we enjoyed a walk through the Berlin Tiergarten into the diplomatic quarter in glorious summer weather. In the Bremen Representation in Berlin the alumni were expected for lunch and had the opportunity to attend a lecture about Bremen's Political work in Berlin.

Afterwards we went to the German Bundestag to visit the famous vitreous dome of the Reichstag building and to witness a plenary session of the Bundestag. Followed by that, Kiron Kreuter,



The alumni in front of the Bremen Representation in Berlin.  
© community bremen e.V.

Parliamentary consultant in the team of Dr. Carsten Sieling, spoke with us about the topic „financial equalization / reorganization Federal and State affairs“. It was an interesting opportunity and lead to an exciting discussion.

In the late evening the alumni of the University of Bremen arrived back in Bremen with many

interesting impressions from Berlin and many new contacts.

It was a very successful day. We would like to thank all the alumni who have participated and special thanks to Dr. Carsten Sieling for the invitation.

## Alumni Summer Celebration on July 10, 2015

On Friday, 10th of July 2015 – the eve of OPEN CAMPUS – community bremen e.V. invites you to its summer celebration. We want to come together in a relaxed, summery mood with delicate grilled food, great music and nice people right on campus. We hope that many of our alumni take part so that we can make this first alumni summer celebration a success. If many alumni of our university – also with their plus one – join and enrich the evening with their stories, we can make that happen!

There will be live music by the Bremen band



„Blauer Montag“, community bremen board member Bernd Hesse is also part of the band. For 15 euro per person the barbecue buffet

(also vegetarian!) and drinks are included. Bremen-based software company team neusta supports us as a sponsor, so we can keep the cost sharing low.

**Location:** University Bremen (Café Unique, Enrique-Schmidt-Straße 7, 28359 Bremen)

**Time:** 6 - 10 pm

**Cost:** 15 euro per person. Grill buffet (vegetarian as well) and drinks are included!

**Participants:** Alumni and former University Bremen staff with partner/family..

**Please register via e-mail ([alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de)) or by calling 0049421/218-69777.**

## University's OPEN CAMPUS on July 11th, 2015

The University of Bremen invites interested people in and around Bremen to the second OPEN CAMPUS on July 11th, 2015 from 1 p.m. to midnight. A great way to combine the alumni summer celebration with an „university weekend“.

Under the motto „Open Worlds - Share Knowledge“ the university will show you what it has to offer. In more than 30 pagoda tents set up in the campus park faculties, institutes, affiliated insti-

tutes, and various central research units will give fascinating insights into their works and projects. Community Bremen e.V. presents itself in one of the tents as well.

In addition to a science slam and diverse stage program, there will be the children's campus for younger visitors to discover. Also the-



re will be guided tours of institutes and laboratories, exciting presentations on current research topics and open air live music from 7 pm with three local bands and a DJ-team.

Free admission all day long. The entire OPEN CAMPUS program 2015 can be found [HERE](#).

## „Networking from, for and with Alumni“ in the Penitentiary Bremen

Community Bremen e.V. is invited by state council Prof. Matthias Stauch to visit the JVA Bremen on September 22nd, 2015.

In a lecture, participants will get to know the substantive work in a penal system. Various areas of the prison will be seen, including the social therapy, the department of sexual and violent offenders and pre-trial custody.

Modern buildings will be presented as well as detention houses, which were built in 1874 and are reconstructed at the moment. Participants also get to see the cottage industries to learn about the conditions under which prisoners work and which products the penitentiary Bremen produces.

After the tour, the traditional „get-together“

takes place in the prison's education and training center.

**Location:** JVA Bremen, Am Fuchsberg 3, 28239 Bremen

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Participants:** Limited to 25 persons

**Please register via email ([alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de)) or by telephone (0421/21869777).**

## University Bremen's Department 1 Celebrates Summer

On July 3, 2015, the university department 1 Physics / Electrical Engineering does its traditional summer celebration.

The popular volleyball tournament starts at 9 am in the morning, from 3 pm, there will be coffee and cake as well as a delicious buffet and music later in the day.

All alumni are sincerely invited to

join the event together with their families. A great opportunity for the alumni to see how „their“ department has evolved and to get in touch again with former colleagues and other students.

Meet up at the celebration with alumni representative of department 1, Sigrid Rifai, to get a trademark for a free drink. Tickets are

available for 9 euro (coffee, cake and buffet included) on tuesdays from 10 am - 12 pm and 14-16 pm at the dean's office or online / phone. Admission is free for children under 14 years.

**Contact:** Tel. (0421) 218 – 62700  
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# 6 QUESTIONS FOR...

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



**B**remen's Justice State Council Matthias Stauch was a student at the University of Bremen in the seventies. Afterwards he became administrative judge in Bremen and worked for several years as a scientific assistant at the Federal Constitutional Court. In the nineties he worked for the Senator for Finances in Bremen and in addition became chief judge in 1994. Five years later he became President of the Administrative Court of Bremen. He was appointed chairman of the Higher Administrative Court of Bremen in 2002 and served as Vice President of the Constitutional Court.

Since July 2011, Matthias Stauch is State Council for the Senator for Justice and

**Constitution as well as the Senator for Economics, Labour and Ports in Bremen. At the University of Bremen, he works as an honorary professor since 2008.**

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

I studied at the University of Bremen from 1973 to 1979. I chose Bremen because of the atmosphere of transition and the multidisciplinary social science orientation of law school back then. The curiosity about social structures has never left me throughout my professional practice since then. The study there was profound and lasting for me.

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

My strongest memory is of the constructive and challenging learning environment with my fellow students in very energetic small groups and with our university teachers. And: Openness to other disciplines, especially for philosophy and history.

„The study was profound and lasting.“

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

The work in the unionized education and the experiences I made there affected me deeply, both personal and in the pursuit of adequate and good decisions as a judge.

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

To use this very special phase of life to engage with fundamental texts about society and history. And: To learn to write your own, clear and concise texts and to learn to talk and argue.

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

...an essential cultural factor in Bremen. It should show this by presence in public life again and again.“

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

...the possibility to keep the own history and development in mind as a „child“ of this university. It is also important to reflect on one's experiences over and over again also in dialogue with others.“

## Steel Innovation Prize 2015 goes to University of Bremen

**T**he German steel industry awarded a research collaboration in which the University of Bremen was significantly involved with the Steel Innovation Prize 2015. Every three years the prize is awarded in the categories „steel products“, „steel in research and development“, „steel in construction“ and „steel design“.

The collaboration project of the universities in Bremen, Aachen, Munich and Kaiserslautern is called „High Performance Components - Innovative concepts to increase the performance and reliability of highly stressed components“ and was awarded in the category „Steel in Research and Development“. The aim of this project is

to improve design and to develop new concepts for alloys and heat treatment for drive technology components. The designed steel materials, which are extremely resistant and nevertheless significantly insensitive to inclusions, can for example be used in gears, bearings and drive shafts.

At the University of Bre-

men, the institute for materials technology, Institut für Werkstofftechnik, was involved in the project. Prof. Dr. Hans-Werner Zoch, one of the project's lead researchers and professor of materials engineering at the University of Bremen, as well as Managing Director of the Foundation Institute of Materials Engineering Bremen, recognizes the

importance of the project: „Damage to components are annoying and can be expensive for all users, for example as a motorist, but also as a producer. Materials which are tolerant to damage will help increase reliability, reduce default rates and in the end reduce costs. The modern steel material has considerable potential for innovation.“

## Alumni-Network supported Exchange Project with Moldova

End of April 2015, the Center for Media, Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Bremen, ZeMKI, organized an exciting exchange project: Ten students and their vice-dean from Moldova came to Bremen to get to know the local media scene, the city and the University of Bremen. There was a wide program set up for the students including visits to Radio Bremen and Sat1, events at the University and of course getting to know the city of Bremen in an interactive way.

Community bremen e.V. has financially supported the exchange and actively supported it in the form of Christoph Sodemann, board member of the Alumni Network.

„Full of anticipation I wrote into my datebook



The German students spent an exciting time in Moldova.  
© Denise Hasselbrink

even month in advance: ‚The Moldovans are coming!‘ in large, colorful letters and with a huge smile on my face. And it was worth it,“ Denise Hasselbrink says. She is a student of Media and Communication Studies in her 8th semester at the University of Bremen and participated in the exchange project. „The week here in Bremen

was breathtaking. Sleep? Goods in short supply! Food? Overrated! Fun? Nonstop! Whether at official events or private tours of Bremen, we got to know each other better by the minute and compared similarities and differences between our cultures. „

Following the week in Bremen, nine students from the University of Bremen travelled to Moldova to get to know the local life. Amongst other things, the students visited a public service radio station and a privately owned TV station. Also the partner university was visited. „They showed us their lives, their culture and their hospitality. They are much more similar to us



The Moldovan exchange students at Radio Bremen.  
© Denise Hasselbrink

than some would expect. I am in love with this country and will try to get an internship or a semester abroad there to stay for a long time with my newfound friends and to be able to get to know the country even better“, concludes Denise Hasselbrink. Meanwhile, the 24-year-old also has been selected for a summer internship at a TV station in Moldova.



## University does well in the Fields of Relation to Professional Practice and Study Duration

The University of Bremen performs well in the current ranking of the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) and the weekly newspaper „Die Zeit“ in the fields of relation to professional practice and the duration of studies. The subjects geography, earth sciences, computer science, mathematics, nursing, physics and political science were evaluated in the ranking.

The results show that geo sciences at the University of Bremen have been very successful in the acquisition of research funds as well as the computer science in the international orientation and

the promotions. Political science students are very satisfied with the support provided by teachers and the curriculum.

„Given the austerity discussions, which are well known to students, I am very satisfied with the results of the recent CHE university rankings. Despite the difficult conditions, they show the great commitment of our scientists for teaching and learning. Where there is pent-up demand according to the CHE ranking, we will take a closer look and readjust,“ Professor Dr. Thomas Hoffmeister, Vice President for Teaching and Learning at the University of Bremen, says.

## Bremen Professor Placed 4th in Nationwide Ranking as Important Political Advisor

Current research shows that economists in an advisory role have a much bigger impact on the media and also in circles of politico-economic policy makers than other scientists. In the economists ranking 2014 by the „Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung“, Bremen's Professor Dr. Rudolf Hickel was placed fourth as a political advisor. The assessments made by the University's economist about broad issues of political economy are in high demand.

In early May this year for example, he

spoke to around 6.000 listeners about alternatives to economic policies and minimum wage. Prof. Dr. Hickel was significantly involved in establishing the University of Bremen and in 1971 he was appointed professor of political economy with a focus on public finance.

Two years later he was appointed professor for finance. He was also Head of the Department of Labor and Economic Development at the University of Bremen from 2001 to 2009.



## Red Chairs as a Sign of Togetherness

### University Bremen and Dickinson College celebrate 30 years of cooperation

On 29 May 1985, the first cooperation agreement between the University of Bremen and the Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania was signed. At that time no one had certainly expected that this cooperation will last for 30 years. Since then, over 350 students from both sides of the atlantic have taken part in the program. To celebrate the anniversary in style a delegation around Dickinson President Nancy Roseman visited the University of Bremen recently.

Almost 30 alumni of the program came to Bremen for the event, including the first participant Mathias Ziegfeld. The teacher studied from 1984-85 at the Dickinson College, a memorable time, as he showed in his presentation. Together with numerous former teachers, program staff and guests from the Dickinson College, memories were

shared.

The former rector of the University of Bremen Prof. Dr. Wilfried Müller attended the alumni meeting as well. Together with his colleague William G. Durden, president of the Dickinson College until 2012, they have promoted the cooperation

for many years. Müller, since 2013 honorary doctorate of the Dickinson College, is sure that the long-standing trust and good cooperation is based on a similar mindset. „We're kind of equal,“ he says.

Both of them did not hesitate as they were asked to support the purchase of „Dickinson Chairs“. A lot of these red chairs have been on Dickinson College campus for quite some time now. The idea to set up the same chairs as a sign of solidarity on the Bremen campus came up during the last visit in Carlisle. Private donations should now make

the purchase of the chairs possible. For 400 euro one chair can be set up on campus and the donor will be mentioned by name on a badge on the chair. Thus it was only natural for Müller and Durden to donate a chair together. Meanwhile, further donations were assured. Community bremen e.V., Sparkasse Bremen, members of the rector's office and the president of the Dickinson College have already pledged, so a couple of chairs could already be unveiled as part of the alumni event. At the latest after the OPEN CAMPUS they will get a firm anchoring and will be permanently installed on campus.

People interested in contributing with a donation to purchase additional chairs can contact Annette Lang, director of the International Office. **Contact:** lang@uni-bremen.de



The ceremonial unveiling of the red chairs.



## Collective Erasmus Staff Week in Bremen

End of April, Bremen's colleges jointly organized their third Erasmus Staff Week focusing on the enhancement of student employability in an international context.

Colleagues from all administrative departments and other associated fields of work from our partner colleges throughout Europe were invited to participate. Both, the hosts and par-

ticipants presented best practice examples, ideas, and concepts, which have been analyzed and discussed in interactive workshops.

The workshops took place on the individual campuses of the host colleges in Bremen: The University of Applied Sciences Bremen, the Jacobs University and the University of Bremen and in Bremerhaven at its University of Applied Sciences. Participants had thus the chance to

get to know the different types and features of German Higher Education Institutions.

Meetings within different faculties and administrative departments were also part of the program. The third Erasmus Staff Week has been a great success and the Bremen host institutions are happy to organize the fourth conference in two years.

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

### About:

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