

EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



we are back from summer break and present to you the fourth newsletter of the year.

We look back onto a wonderful summer that began with our summer fête and the OPEN CAMPUS of the University of Bremen. In the upcoming quarter, our members are given the opportunity to participate in interesting events of our series "Networking of, for and with alumni." In November we will, for example, visit the Mercedes-Benz plant in Bremen. Furthermore, our next general meeting takes place on October 8, 2015. You can find more information about the events on [page 3](#). I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

With best wishes from campus

D. Schönfeld
Derk Schönfeld

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Successful First Alumni Summer Fête

On July 10, 2015 at 6 p.m. sharp, the Café Unique opened its doors for our first Alumni Summer Fête. Guests entered the café on a carmine red carpet and were warmly welcomed. Approximately fifty guests filled the festively decorated tent of the Café Unique on the university's campus a short while later. Among them were Rector Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter and Bremen's new mayor, Dr. Carsten Sieling, who was a student

at Bremen University in the 1980s. Alumni, faculty and staff, as well as friends and supporters of the university spent the festive evening together in a relaxed atmosphere. The music was provided by the local band "Blauer Montag" whose member Bernd Hesse is one of our executive board members.

Guest star of the night was our alumni bear, who was on the Most Wanted list within the framework of our raffle.

We would like to thank all alumni, who were central to making the celebration such a wonderful experience, and team neusta, a full-service provider from Bremen, whose sponsorship supported the event. We are already looking forward to our summer fête next year!

You can find pictures of the celebration [on our website](#). Additionally, the [university's YouTube channel](#) offers a look back on the event in moving images.

Well-attended Second OPEN CAMPUS

On July 11, 2015, the day following the first Alumni Summer Fête, the second OPEN CAMPUS of the University of Bremen took place, which turned out to be very popular with visitors: Approximately 18,000 visitors found their way to campus at some point in the afternoon. The different departments of the university presented their respective research projects in forty pagoda marquees. The Alumni Network of Bremen University presented itself in one of these pagodas as well.

The visitors' highlights of the OPEN CAMPUS were the different offers for children, the Science Slam, and a science show. Another great success was the accompanying program. The celebration on campus continued until midnight and with many different musical acts.

"We were able to present the achievements of our University of Excellence in an impressive and entertaining manner. We are thrilled that the people from Bremen and surroundings showed such a great interest in us," stated the rector of the university, Professor Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter, with satisfaction.



The community bremen e.V.-office team.



The guests celebrated in a relaxed atmosphere.



Even the rector of the University of Bremen Bernd Scholz-Reiter (l.) and Bremen's new Bürgermeister Carsten Sieling (r.) were among the guests.



A part of the community bremen e.V. Board (from left): Reinhard Ahlers, Michael Wolff, Bernd Hesse, Katerina Vatsella and Christoph Sodemann.
© community bremen e.V.

6 QUESTIONS FOR...

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

He was probably the first Nepalese to come to the University of Bremen. During his time in Bremen from 1993 to 1996, Rabindra Puri studied development policy. Ever since, he has stayed in touch with his contacts in Bremen, be it with his host father Geerd Hildebrandt or the former director of the International Office, Erika Harjes-Badawi; contacts that are valuable to him to this day and which have shaped his life.



© Rabindra Puri

After returning to Nepal, he started working for the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (which is now part of the GIZ, the "German Corporation for International Cooperation"), before founding the Rabindra Puri Foundation for Conversation. Its goal is to preserve traditional architecture and construction methods. People laughed at him in the beginning but, at a later point (in 2004), he was the first Nepalese to receive a UNESCO award. The importance of his work is visible not least since the devastating earthquake in Nepal as most of the buildings that had been constructed according to tradition survived the quake. Rabindra Puri is now in demand. He is advisor to constructors from all over the country, takes action to reconstruct schools and private homes, and tirelessly tries to persuade decision-makers of his efforts.

„The University of Bremen is my good fortune“

1. What were your reasons to study at the University of Bremen?

My contacts to Bremen brought me there, and the graduate program must have been the first of its kind in Germany. I wanted to learn something in Germany and then go back to Nepal. As the entire course of studies was geared to developing countries, it was the perfect degree for me.

2. What is your most important memory of the University of Bremen?

During the third semester, we were required to do an internship in a developing country. I was the only foreign student, and all of my fellow classmates received scholarships. For me that wasn't possible because the only scholarships that existed were

either for international students coming to Germany or for German students going abroad. At a later point, at a celebration, one of the other students gave me more than 4,000 German marks. I was moved to tears because all of the other students, as well as my professors and lecturers, had each given 200 German marks so that I could do my internship abroad as well. That was the greatest scholarship I have ever received, and I always recall this memory fondly.

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

My work in Nepal. It is not only a means of earning a living.

When I see how much my work has achieved, it truly fascinates me and fills me with such satisfaction. That is what drives me to do even more.

4. What advice would you like to give to the students of the University of Bremen?

Do what you enjoy doing, and when it fills you with satisfaction, you're on vacation all year long.

5. What do you associate with the University of Bremen? Please finish the following sentence: „The University of Bremen...“

...is my good fortune.“

6. What does community bremen e.V. stand for in your eyes? Please finish the following sentence: „In my eyes, community bremen e.V. is...“

... a source of information and the bridge that connects me to Bremen University.“

Refugee Aid on Campus

Since July, the University of Bremen has been providing two open spaces, at Biologischer Garten and at Otto-Hahn-Allee, as temporary shelter for refugees. [HERE](#) you can find information on how to help.

Energy Savings in Cold-storage Facilities due to Flow Sensors from Bremen

Having access to fresh fruit in every season has basically become the default in Germany. To allow for that, some types of fruit and vegetables are kept in cold-storage facilities for up to eight months. Yet, the energy consumption resulting from this should not be underestimated.

The new cooperation project "Flow sensor based air management in fruit and vegetable storage (COOL)" has been launched in July. It is its goal to enable energy conservation in cold stores. Eight partners from industry and research, among them the Institute for Microsensors, -actuators and -systems at the University of Bremen, work closely together under the management of the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering Potsdam-Bornim.

Energy in cold-storage facilities is not only required for cooling itself. About 40% of all energy consumption is needed for oversized air circulation systems in order to ensure an even flow of air in the gaps between the crates. It is the declared aim of COOL to find a new intelligent approach for the measuring of actual airflow achieved in and between the crates. When there is sufficient cooling, the cooling fan for the respective section is shut down; when it is not enough, fan speed is increased. If cooling fans use less energy, the entire cooling system has to discharge less heat from the storage.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy funds these efforts for a time frame of two and a half years with approximately 1.2 million euros.

Physicists from Bremen Investigate Use of Intelligent Electricity Meters

In order to reduce fluctuation in the power supply system, it became mandatory in Germany in 2010 to install intelligent electricity meters in all buildings that are built new or are being fully renovated. This enables consumers to program their appliances in such a way that they use the lowest price for electricity.

Scientists of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Bremen

simulated the market that would arise from massive use of intelligent electricity meters and came to the conclusion that it – like all other markets – can also produce bubbles and even crashes.

The price for electricity is regulated by supply and demand. “Yet, the standard theory of supply and demand is insufficient if a large number of consumers compete for the low-

est price. As, of course, everybody wants to do their laundry when electricity is cheapest,” said Professor Stefan Bornholdt of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Bremen. “If the price is high due to little electricity in the network, people will postpone doing their laundry. However, one cannot wait for a very long time as clean clothes constitute a basic need. The more

pre-programmed washing machines will then wait to begin their cycle, the more potential demand will rise: a demand bubble forms,” Professor Bornholdt explained. Once the electricity price drops a little, the bubble bursts and countless washing machines start at the same time. “This sets off a collective avalanche mechanism burdening the power supply systems, and blackouts due to unex-

pected overload cannot be ruled out,” said the physicist from Bremen. It would be necessary to call attention to the fact that such scenarios could indeed take place.

The physicists have now published their research findings in the most important scientific journal for Physics, the “Physical Review” of the American Physical Society.

community bremen e.V. Holds General Meeting on October 8, 2015

2015 has so far been a very successful and exciting year for community bremen e.V. and our now 2,300 members.

In order to discuss the further development of the association, the executive board of community bremen e.V. invites its members to a general meeting in the „BITZ - Bremer Innovations- und Technologiezentrum“ on campus of

the University of Bremen on October 8, 2015 at 4 p.m. (Fahrenheitstraße 1, 28359 Bremen).

An official invitation was sent to all registered members via email.

“Networking of, for and with alumni” at the Mercedes-Benz Plant in Bremen

On November 24, 2015, we continue our series “Networking of, for and with alumni” at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Bremen. At 6 p.m. we will be welcomed on site, and are then given the opportunity to take part in a tour of two sections of the plant: shell construction and final assembly. Subsequently, a get-together with refreshments is held in the plant’s media room at 8:30 p.m., at which participants can engage in conversation and enjoy the evening. The event ends at about 10 p.m.

team neusta, a full-service provider from Bremen, sponsors the event so that participation is free of charge.

Location:

Mercedes-Benz Plant Bremen

Time:

6 p.m.

Participants:

Limited to a maximum of 30



Please register for the event via email (alumni@uni-bremen.de) or phone (0421 /21869777).

The Bremen Mercedes-Benz plant from the air.
© Daimler

Students Win First Prize at iCAN'15 in Alaska

At the "International Contest of Applications in Nano-micro Technology 2015", in short iCAN'15, five students of Electrical and Information Engineering were awarded first prize. Their project "Scipio" was second to none among eighteen other young research teams at the competition in Anchorage, Alaska.

"Scipio", the "Scientific Purification Indicator", is an instrument used for measuring water quality in developing countries. It looks like a small stick and fits into a PET bottle. The idea was brought forward by Theodor Hillebrand, who is pursuing a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Bremen. Hillebrand and his team, i.e. fellow students Yannick Auth, David Horch, Maike Taddiken and Konstantin Tscherkaschin, did their research for almost a year mainly in their free time until the necessary parts for the measuring device fit into a small tube and, thus, through the neck of a bottle.

Contaminated water is filled into transparent PET bottles and exposed to direct sunlight for at least six hours. This is the approximate time it takes for ultraviolet radiation to kill germs. "Scipio" then indicates when the water in the bottle is free of germs. It measures the temperature,



The team (from left): Konstantin Cherkashin, David Horch, Theodor Hillebrand, Maike Taddiken and Yannick Auth.

the intensity of UV radiation, and calculates the optimal time of exposure.

The team is now very excited to actually see the ten-dollar-device in operation. "We did not want to develop a technical gadget, but a useful tool that may truly help people," said Yannick Auth.

In 2014, the group of students already won the first prize at COSIMA (Competition of Students in Microsystems Applications), and in the spring of 2015, they were awarded the advancement award of Germany's foremost engineering service provider Ferchau. They have furthermore been able to secure various sponsors and supporters.

Director of ZARM Elected as Corresponding Member of the "International Academy of Astronautics"

Professor Dr. Claus Lämmerzahl, executive director of the Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) of the University of Bremen, has been elected as corresponding member of the "International Academy of Astronautics" (IAA) for his achievements in space science. On October 11, 2015, the ceremonial presentation of the certificate of membership will take place in Jerusalem within the framework of the "International Astronautical Congress" (IAC).

The IAA's goal is to foster the development of astronautics for peaceful purposes. It is the only organization in the field of space science and space travel that only consists of elected members.

"I feel deeply honored to have been elected into this highly respected academy," said Lämmerzahl. "That was only possible because the accomplishments of our staff members, with the support of the University of Bremen, have helped the ZARM to its globally recognized scientific reputation."

"Silver Medal" for Physics Professor from Bremen

The "Silver Medal" of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) was awarded to John Philip Burrows, physics professor in Bremen for his outstanding achievements in science and his leading role in supporting international partnerships. The president of the IUGG, Harsh Gupta, presented Burrows with the medal together with a certificate of honorary membership at the opening ceremony of the 26th IUGG

General Assembly in Prague.

Burrows has been teaching "Physics and Chemistry of the Atmosphere" at the department of Physics and Electrical Engineering at the University of Bremen since 1992. He has built an excellent team of researchers and has been an influence for an entire generation of European scientists in his field.

His pioneer work with satellite sensors is particularly outstanding, as it provides valuable contributions to better understanding the development of the ozone layer, changes in air quality, and in distribution of greenhouse gases.

Professor Burrows is a member of numerous scientific associations and commissions. He is also the current president of the International Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution (ICACGP).



IUGG President Harsh Gupta (right) presents the award to John Burrows.
© IUGG/C-IN

Marine Researcher Antje Boetius Elected as Member of the DFG Senate

Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius, a Bremen-based marine researcher, was elected as member of the senate of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The DFG is the largest research funding organization in Europe, and its senate is its most important committee. It represents the interests and concerns of research, and advises governments, parliaments, and authorities on scientific grounds.

Next to the computer scientist Prof. Dr. Kerstin Schill, Antje Boetius is now the second senate member from Bremen.

Antje Boetius has been a professor for Geomicrobiology at the University of Bremen since 2009 and is now head of the research group Microbial Habitat at the Max

Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen. In addition to that, she is head of the Helmholtz

Max Planck Joint Research Group for Deep-Sea Ecology and Technology at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven. In January 2014, Antje Boetius was appointed chair of the Scientific Commission

of the Council of Science and Humanities.

For the next four years, she will be one of the 39 members of the DFG senate and represent the field of atmospheric science and oceanography. The Bremen presence in the senate strengthens the importance of Bremen as a location for science nationwide.



Prof. Dr. Antje Boetius
© MPI

Bremen University Deepens Cooperation with the Ocean University of China

In mid-July 2015, the University of Bremen and the Ocean University of China (OUC) signed a renewed cooperation agreement. With that purpose, a delegation from the Chinese university visited the University of Bremen under the direction of the president of the OUC, Professor Yu Zhigang.

The partnership between the OUC, which is among the best institutions for marine research in East Asia, and Bremen University has been active for over ten years now. Students of the marine science study programs do not only have the possibility to study abroad at the respective partner institution for one year but are even able to earn a double-degree, one at each university.

The cooperation is now expanded to include several universities and research institutes in Northern Germany, with the University of Bremen at the center of the network. Its major focus will be the joint involvement in current programs and the joint supervision of doctoral candidates. One intention of this is to increase the number of students and doctoral candidates as well as to send guest lecturers to the respective partner university. The next step will be to collectively determine funding opportunities by German and Chinese organizations.

China-Alumni Become More Active

Our alumni in Beijing are already thinking of the next generation. When Dr. Regine Moll, China consultant of the University of Bremen, visited Beijing, the alumni brought several potential new members. As an early preparation for Bremen University, the appropriate gear had already been provided.

The group in Beijing organizes regular meetings and even training sessions, for which they have successfully been granted funds from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Yet, meetings

Last year, we already reported on the commitment of the University of Bremen to aid refugees with an academic background. Since summer semester 2014, the University of Bremen invites refugees with an academic background to participate in all regular courses. As a pilot project unique to Germany, it has set an example and has since been copied by many other German universities. More than seventy people partici-

also provide them with a basis to exchange personal experiences leading positions in businesses or universities. Thus, we are happy



Alumni in Beijing with the next generation.
© International Office Universität Bremen

to announce that Prof. YAO Yazhen has recently been named vice president of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SHUFE). In several other cases, alumni who work at universities have led to the initiation of new partnerships or have contributed to the development of

from their time in Bremen, which is the common denominator.

Similar to Beijing, an active participation in alumni life has developed in Shanghai. Often, alumni hold

current ones. The cooperation with Shanghai University has also been initiated by an alumna, and collaboration with Tongji University now unites numerous alumni.

IN-Touch Mentors

pated in the project in Bremen during its first year.

Nevertheless, project coordinator Jens Kemper from the International Office said that "continuous studies aren't so easy for refugees; many struggle with posttraumatic stress; others try to find their relatives." In order to improve the quality of the assistance for participants, student mentors provide help to refugees. They give advice concerning the selection of suitable classes or are available for a chat or to engage in

free-time activities with them.

The success of the project would not be possible without these student volunteers. The same notion can be witnessed among many citizens of Bremen, who demonstrate extraordinary readiness to help in order to support those who have fled war and hardship. Hence, they contribute to making Bremen an open and welcoming city, providing for the needs of refugees.

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

About:

Alumni network of the University of Bremen
community bremen e.V.
Managing Director: Derk H. Schönfeld
Enrique-Schmidt-Str. 7
28359 Bremen
Germany
alumni@uni-bremen.de

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