

EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



summer Break is over and we're back to the daily grind and to our full agendas. We would like to share some dates that you should definitely mark on your calendars: attractive offers for networking, trainings, and possibilities of contact with the alumni association. We will visit the pit lane of Bremergy, offer career trainings and events for members, and of course provide you with all

the news and information from campus. I am sure there will be an article among them that you find interesting. If not, please contact us right away – we are always open for suggestions.

Hoping you will enjoy our newsletter,

Derk Schönfeld

Save the Date!

The next general meeting of our association takes place on October 26 of this year. In combination with an event of the series 'Networking of, for, and with Alumni', we will be meeting at BIBA, the research institute for production and logistics on campus, which was founded as early as in 1981.



© Jens Lehmkuhler / BIBA

The engineering institute is an ideal point of contact on the topic of 'Industry 4.0'. There will be ample time for networking, exchanging ideas, and for information on linking

processes and products.

The university rector, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter, held the position of Scientific Director of the BIBA IPS until 2012. Bremen alumni should not miss this general meeting in a very special place at an institute between fundamental research, teaching, and transfer. Our event will provide insights into a visionary success story. Every member will get a separate invitation. /MB

Third Alumni Summer Fête

On June 16, 2017, it finally took place: the third Alumni Summer Fête.

At 6 p.m., the doors opened to the festively decorated exterior of the Café Unique. Among our more than 100 guests walking across the red alumni carpet were Senator of Science, Health, and Consumer Protection, Prof. Dr. Eva Quante-Brandt, and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter, Rector of the University of Bremen.

A special highlight for us was that we could welcome some of our Research Ambassadors here in Bremen, who have been active as ambassadors and networkers for

our university with its international focus.

Nobody allowed for the rainy Bremen summer to ruin the mood – everybody spent a wonderfully relaxing evening together. Against the musical backdrop of Paul Kahre, lead singer of the band *Mojo Working*, and while enjoying the delicious grilled goods provided by Café Unique, there was time for new encounters, interesting topics, and pleasant conversations.

In his welcoming address, the rector praised the alumni's dedication towards our university: "Without you and your work at the University of Bremen, it would certainly

not be what it is today – one of the best universities in Germany. You contributed greatly to the development and success of our institution."

We would like to thank all guests who spent the exceptional evening with us. Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to the sponsors of our successful event, team neusta and BAB – Förderbank für Bremen und Bremerhaven.

We are already looking forward to our next Alumni Summer Fête and hope that it will give us an opportunity to again welcome many guests! /MW



Rector Prof. Dr.-Ing. Scholz-Reiter and Christoph Sodemann during the welcoming address.



Senator Prof. Dr. Quante-Brandt. © Uni Bremen, Dirk Vaihinger



Getting to know each other.

OPENING WORLDS – SHARING KNOWLEDGE...

... was the slogan of the 2017 Open Campus.

It has been a tradition since 2013 that the University of Bremen opens its doors biannually at the Open Campus event. To whom? To students and those interested in studying as well as all citizens – simply to everybody. The departments, institutes, and service providers of the university present themselves and their accomplishments to the public. Attractive sciences – challenging research – interesting projects and open doors for first insights. Visitors were able to stop by the various stage shows and versatile presentations and wondered in awe. Interesting information and incredible



Selfmade ice cream at faculty 3.



© Uni Bremen, Dirk Vaihinger

presentations were given at more than forty pagoda marquees. This really was 'science you can touch' in the framework of an event of vast versatility. Having more than 20,000 students, the campus feels like its own district in Bremen. Lecture halls

were used for presentations, and different institutes offered guided tours through their buildings. A colorful children's program entertained the little ones.

The alumni association was present at one of the pagodas as well, inviting the passers-by to join – no matter if they were first-years or employees, former or prospective students.

There was quite a big rush at times, and many new members were welcomed to the association. It was a really successful presentation of our work.

Once dark, the stage at Open Campus each year opens for very special guests. This year it was Samy Deluxe inviting his audience to dance and party through the night.

It was a fascinating event that will again draw in a crowd of thousands in 2019. /MB



The alumni-pagoda. © Uni Bremen, Dirk Vaihinger

Research Ambassadors erstmals zu Gast in Bremen

We were able to welcome very special alumni in Bremen this year. Supported by the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, the University of Bremen had been able to implement its Research Ambassador program last year. By now there are eight former scientists of the University of Bremen in different parts of the world who are active as ambassadors for the university, provide information to prospective students and researchers, build networks, and increase our global visibility.

For the first time, several Research Ambassadors came together for a joint workshop in Bremen on June 15 and 16, 2017. Aim of



Research Ambassadors, rector and International Office during Open Campus 2017. © International Office

the workshop was to discuss their experiences and think up new ideas of how they can actively promote the University of Bremen as well as the U Bremen Research Alliance individually and as a network. The topics ranged from very practical aspects such as the establishment of a regular information forum and the acquisition of funding to marketing activities and the development of local alumni groups.

Local alumni groups: We would like to directly address alumni in Mexico, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, and the USA. Those interested in connecting with one of our ambassadors and help with the establishment of a Bremen alumni group are welcome to get in touch with them [directly](#).

After two days of interesting and lively conversations, the Research Ambassadors enjoyed the Alumni Summer Fête and the Open Campus.

Everybody agreed that this form of exchange should take place regularly from now on – at the latest, however, for the next Open Campus! /AL

6 QUESTIONS FOR...

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



Dr. Thorsten Haase. © sagmalspaghetti

1. When did you study/work at the University of Bremen, and what were your reasons to study here?

I started studying Business Studies and Economics in Bremen in 1981 – against the advice of all of my friends and acquaintances. Everybody warned me about the ‘commie training center’. (smiles to himself) Everyone agreed that it would be a waste of time and that I would never have good career perspectives after studying in Bremen. I did it anyway – out of curiosity. There must be something about this university, I thought. And indeed: Studying the basics together with students of law and social sciences and being taught the differentiated, sometimes polarizing perspectives of the lecturers inspired me from the very start. We were given guidance but few regulations. I experienced studying as a time of great flexibility in terms of the decisions I could take freely.

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

The confrontation with people who think differently – I was impressed by it, and it was important to me – but also studying in an interdisciplinary, project-oriented manner. It was great – sure, there were few exams. But there were term papers and research projects. One had to learn how to handle the freedom and develop independently how to work methodically. We learned how to collaborate and how to deal with conflicts in a group but also how to take initiative and lead the way. They're all abilities that are helpful today in my job. Being independently in charge of using the freedom given to you without tight, restricting regulations from the outside – that was fantastic! Meanwhile, the lecturers always had an open door. They were always responsive and approachable. You could al-

ways talk to them – there was a form of trust but there were also expectations, a framework for all doing. We were met as equals to a certain extent. We were really taken seriously. It was a great time. I used all degrees of freedom – lived and learned. And I never regretted to have stayed here. It was the right decision. (laughs) I had barely started studying when I went to a demonstration: We all marched into the city center – university lecturers and students alike – and all the way to the senate. The demands were of course some form of funding. It was easy to be integrated and engaged along the way. It was a joint cause. We were dialog-oriented and open-minded. Working in teams was natural.

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

People and chances that suddenly came up, based on general values, have influenced my paths until today. So I ended up pursuing my doctorate in Bremen as well and found out later that it was no problem at all to find an interesting job. Even in large companies. Being able to approach people, trusting them and being trusted, but also being pragmatic enough... it's always been easy for me to think positively. On the human side of it, Bremen has always been particularly strong: Hanseatically reserved, open-minded, and freedom loving. I was working for Siemens and was lucky enough to find people, especially my new boss, with a similar attitude and openness in the company. I was supported, developed myself, and grew in self-confidence – even if things seemed challenging at first, as did starting to work at HEC. I've now been here for over twenty years. I've always had support from my parents, at university, and in encounters on all job-related stages. But I've also been lucky along the way. I'm aware of that, too.

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

My advice is the following: Try to find your own way and don't focus too hard on a fixed goal! It's okay to get lost, begin again, change... Test things out – as much as possible! Be open-minded towards new experiences, for example through internships, and esta-

blish your personal network. It is important to have contacts, be socially competent and stay open-minded. Corporate structures are loosened more and more at the moment – making it important to have learned to think outside the box in interdisciplinary teams, to work with others as equals, and to assume responsibility. Curiosity and enthusiasm are essential driving forces for happiness and success.

5. What do you associate with the University of Bremen?

A modern, open campus with recognizably good work that is of the utmost importance for the region's economy and for the education of students. A reliable source for a qualified younger generation.

6. What does Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V. stand for in your eyes?

A wonderful network with great opportunities for the exchange of experiences. I've met some very interesting people there, and we enjoy supporting students – in their Bachelor's or Master's theses, by providing projects, internships, and insights here at HEC and all of team neusta. We also support Deutschlandstipendium holders. It's extremely important to us to pass on our experiences. And it's always a win-win situation – so many new impulses are caused by questions, ideas, and the exchange with young people. That's helpful to us in our everyday work, and it's useful dialog. Many alumni in Bremen and around the world have become true ambassadors for the university and the Bremen spirit. We consider ourselves a part of that. The state of Bremen should make the most of its talents as they are a real treasure. In fact, the city should really declare the university a matter close to the heart – similarly to the strong ties with and the pride in Werder Bremen, the enthusiasm for the University of Bremen should be palpable as well. I would suggest that policy makers should do more in this regard.

B-Human Wins World Cup in Japan

The common team of the University of Bremen and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) won the world championship RoboCup 2017. What an amazing success! We are very excited by this victory, also because the alumni are among the sponsors and supporters of Bremen University's successful robot soccer team.

B-Human has again won the world cup in the Standard Platform League. The team won, as in 2013, all parts of the competition of the league. They were able to win



© B-Human / Universitaet Bremen / DFKI GmbH

both the 'Champions Cup' and the 'Technical Challenge' at this year's RoboCup, which took place in Nagoya, Japan, from July 27 to 30, 2017.

This is their sixth title as world champions; they also hold nine titles each as German champions and as European champions. What a unique success story! The team traveling to Japan consisted of eleven NAO robots, nine current and former students of the University of Bremen,

as well as scientists Dr. Thomas Röfer from the DFKI research area Cyber-Physical Systems (which is led by Prof. Rolf Drechsler) and Dr. Tim Laue of the University of Bremen.

The main competition had been split into the 'Champions Cup' and the 'Challenge Shield' for the first time, in order to have teams with similar capabilities compete against each other. That is comparable to the division into a first and second soccer league. Halfway through the tournament, relegation matches were held, in which teams could be promoted into the 'Champions Cup' or relegated into the 'Challenge Shield'. However, B-Human was far from having to fear relegation. Instead, the team was able to win the finale in an exciting game against the NAO team HTWK from Leipzig with a score of 2:1. Until then, no team had scored against the team from Bremen.

Another new aspect was the 'Mixed Team Competition', in which each team consisted of players from two regular teams providing three players each. B-Human joined up with the HULKS of the Hamburg University of Technology to form the team B-HULKS. They were able to win all games in the preliminary round until the final game against the team DoBerMan of TU Dortmund University and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Here, the final score was 2:2, so a penalty shootout ensued, which the B-HULKS were able to win at a score of 4:3 after a brilliant save by the B-Human goalie at the last second.

The so-called 'Technical Challenge' was



B-Human robot with trophies. © B-Human / Universitaet Bremen / DFKI GmbH

also about penalty kicks this year. By means of a knockout-tournament, the winner was determined in five rounds from 24 teams. In it, only two robots managed to score once against the strong Bremen goalie. Additionally, all B-Human kickers were successful in their attempts to score, so no team was able to prevent the Bremen team from winning.

This was the first world cup to be played on artificial turf, which made walking on two legs much more difficult for the humanoid robots – much like in real soccer.

We extend our most heartfelt congratulations to the team for this amazing success and are looking forward to future titles and challenges. /MB

Networking Online and Offline

Everyone is talking about it – but how exactly does it work? In a new 'Career Prospects with Alumni' seminar, taking place on **Saturday, October 28, 2017 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)**, we are given the opportunity to face that question. The group of participants will work out together in which networks they are already active – knowingly or unknowingly.



Networking - how exactly does it work? © vege

Together with the coach, the use and general functions of networks are discussed and made plain in practical exercises. You will develop a personal plan about the networks in which you want to become active in the short and medium term, which you would like to establish yourself, and

which goals you want to achieve with them.

Michael Blochberger will conduct the seminar. The marketing expert and communication trainer has been coaching entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals in strategic market positioning and networking for over thirty years. He has actively been networking online and offline since the establishment of the CIT Institute in 1997.

The event will take place at the **University of Bremen**. We are able to offer this high-value seminar to our members for 40 Euro per person, an exceptionally low price.

NOTICE: The number of participants is limited to twenty people. Please register [here](#).

Alumni at the botanika

At the invitation of our alumni Harald Mikulla (Director of the Association for Horticulture, Landscaping, and Sports Ground Construction of Lower Saxony and Bremen) and Armin Schlüter (Exhibition Manager of the botanika GmbH), about sixty alumni gathered at the facilities of the botanika Bremen amidst the rhododendron park on August 17, 2017.

After a warm welcome by Managing Director Petra Schäffer, the group of alumni was given background information on numbers, development, and future plans of the botanika. With these facts in mind, three smaller groups formed to visit the varied sections of the exhibition. Imitated Asian landscapes, for example, from Borneo, the Philippines, or the Himalayas, which were presented in large greenhouse worlds and gave fascinating insights into

the culture and plant diversity of the Asian regions. After that, the groups visited the discovery center – where Armin Schlüter was able to give an exciting inside view into flora and fauna. Even a look behind the scenes was possible, demonstrating the sustainable and modern concept of the irrigation system of the botanika.

The highlight of the tour was the preview and preparation of the Peace Buddha statue. Ms. Schuchardt – responsible for PR and Marketing – showed us the intensive preliminary phases for the opening ceremony that was going to be held on the following day: The Peace Buddha statue for Europe will be in Bremen! Reason for it is the gift of the Dalai Lama, who would like to see peace across the world within the symbol of having a Peace Buddha statue on each continent. The Tibetan Bud-

dhist ceremony is prepared by the monks present, who fill the hollow body of the statue with mantra scrolls, semi-precious stones, and dried herbs and blossoms.

Due to its regular events such as public talks, concerts, seminars, and many more, the botanika has become a popular venue.

Impressions of the educational work of the botanika's 'Green School' and the multifaceted partnership with the university, with associations, and businesses in the botanika's 'Green Forum', and the ensuing tour gave us an exclusive look behind the scenes. The traditional get-together with drinks and finger food was held in the special atmosphere of the park. The lively conversations of the alumni attested to the great interest and the fun of exchanging ideas and encountering others. /MB



This alumni was well liked by the butterflies.



Time for conversations at the traditional get-together.



The Peace Buddha statue. © botanika GmbH

Preview: Alumni to Visit Speedy Bremery Team

... the Formula Student Team Bremen

Mark your calendars for an important and unique event planned for you on campus on **September 21, 2017 at 6 p.m.!**

The alumni of the University of Bremen have the unique opportunity to experience the new BreMo 17 – the university's newest race car that will be seen in action at the FS Germany and the FSAE Italy. The committed Bremery team currently consists of

65 students of the University of Bremen and is continually optimizing their vehicles, their IT and PR, and first and foremost, they continue to gain more sponsors.

Even beyond Bremen, there is much interest in the sophisticated vehicles and the know-how behind them.

When the alumni are welcomed at the university depot, a presentation on the Formula Student will be held. Experience a time lapse of the developments of the last years, the current season review, and receive insights into the next season in a glimpse into the future! Subsequently, the vehicle will be presented to us in the area of the depot, and naturally, there will be ample time for a closing get-together with food and drinks.

You won't want to miss it! Register right away and refuel your Bremery! The event is expected to end at around **8:30 p.m.**

NOTICE: The number of participants is limited to forty people. Participation is free of charge. Please register [here](#).



The Bremery-Team. © Formula Student Germany e.V.

Astronautical Congress 2018 in Bremen!

2018 will be THE year for Bremen: The International Astronautical Congress (IAC) will be held in the space city Bremen!

Over 4,000 aerospace experts will be expected for the event from more than seventy countries. But it is not only about diversity. Much rather, it is about bringing together new partners from science, politics, and economy. High-ranking guests will be meeting in Bremen for an entire week. Alongside 1,600 scientific talks and an aerospace exhibition, there will be daily plenary events focusing on various different topics as well as a workshop of the United Nations and events aimed solely at young professionals. We were able to interview **Prof. Dr. Marc Avila** (Executive Director ZARM – Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity) and **Birgit Kinkeldey** (Head of Corporate Communication at ZARM) about this exciting and complex project. They both are already full of enthusiasm, which has transferred to their around fifteen staff members who are working on the realization of the event. Naturally, everyone is highly committed and very excited, as it is THE event in the international aerospace industry. Each year, new recruits along with seasoned managers from industry and research as well as representatives of international space agencies meet up to swap knowledge and provide new information. This year's motto of the event is: ... Involving Everyone!

And that is exactly what it is supposed to be about. It is not only experts swapping ideas, but there will be various dif-



Dipl.-Ing. Christian Eigenbrod, Scientific and Technical Director at ZARM.

© ZARM, Universität Bremen, Cindi Jacobs

ferent offers of events and exhibitions, information and meetings for the public: talks at the House of Science, exhibitions in the lower hall of the Bremen City Hall, science you can touch, open doors at businesses, and politics that make a

difference. Different types of events are planned all over Bremen in order to be able to realize the mega event – a broad range of information, exchange, and adventure. There is room for everything.

When the IAC opens on October 1, 2018, a top-level opening ceremony is planned for all guests, among them not only the German Chancellor and the Director General of ESA but also the Chair of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) as well as representatives of other space agencies (NASA, JAXA, etc.). The world as a guest in Bremen! The DLR, OHB SE, MT Ae-



In the DLR_School_Lab. © ZARM, Universität Bremen, Cindi Jacobs

rospace, Airbus Defence and Space, the Ariane Group, the City of Bremen ('City of Space'), and ZARM jointly cooperate as Team Germany. As early as in 2015, these partners were fully on board and have fervently supported the application as host city. For the organization of the event, the Hanseatic city has perfect conditions: Together with Toulouse, Bremen is one of the most important locations for aerospace in Europe – a fact of which most people from Bremen may not even be aware.

Networking. Live Communication. Vision Sharing.

The IAC in Bremen is meant to be based on these special premises that are very dear to the organization committee from Bremen:

#InvolvingEveryone

- Stands for **Diversity**: from the generation that is in daycare to school labs to senior citizens, a broad range of information will be available. There will be a specific program for school and university students and young scientists – as it is an excellent possibility for them, too, to make international contacts.



Dr. Fritz Merkle, board member of the OHB AG. © ZARM, Universität Bremen, Cindi Jacobs

The promotion of the young is a priority.

- Across **genders** – so that, on the one hand, young girls can develop an early interest in the STEM subjects and, on the other hand, female scientists have a chance of filling leading positions in this area of expertise. The clearly formulated aspiration of the organizing committee: 50 % of plenary talks are to be held by women.

- Discussions are to be independent from **Geography** – meaning the country of origin of the participants – and, in particular, independent from previous national aerospace activities and are to be held with equality and respect.

- Inhibitions for asking questions, networking, and linking goals and interests at the events are to be as low as possible. Communicating as equals is an essential aspect.

Young ideas require a new, fresh way of approaching tasks. Thinking outside the box. The congress has also changed in this regard: The IAF (the International Astronautical Federation, the conference's governing body) is breaking down structures so that anything is possible and imaginable.

Ms. Kinkeldey is experiencing these expenditures of effort and the exciting preliminary phase for the second time; the first time was when Bremen was host for the international space community before in 2003. And now everything from the top!

Yet, commitment and enthusiasm do not get old. Instead, they seem to increase.

To be continued on page 7...

... Based on the experiences from 2003 and many successive events around the world, they are well-prepared for hosting this highlight in Bremen. The team enjoys the firm support full of pride from Bremen politics and the entire aerospace community.

According to Birgit Kinkeldey, communication about the event is already at full blast. The twitter account [@IAC2018](#) is used to provide information about the city of Bremen and current aerospace topics.

Our interviewees' eyes light up when assuring us that the exploratory spirit and interest in future issues are surging up again and are more present in people's minds – revived by the planned mars missions, by pioneers such as Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, and by film and literature. After the very emotional phase of the moon landing, new excitement for the challenges and possibilities in spaceflight is palpable again, according to Prof. Avila.

The International Astronautical Congress in Bremen – a fascinating campus story, which highlights once more what Bremen has made of itself. At least in astronautics, it ranks among the best! And the ZARM, with its drop tower that can be seen from afar, stands for many as a symbolic glance into the sky... and to new worlds. /MB

Farewell Barbecue for International Students

A summer night, engaging music, barbecues and benches on the grass – that was the setting for the successful farewell barbecue, which the Erasmus Initiative of the University of Bremen had organized. At the same time, the students celebrated the anniversary of the Erasmus program, which turns thirty this year!

More than 200 international students from our partner universi-



Farewell barbecue and anniversary of the Erasmus program in one.
© Erasmus-Initiative

ties in and outside of Europe studied at the University of Bremen this summer semester. The Erasmus Initiative makes a substantial contribution to a successful start of settling in on campus and in the city. This voluntary student group sets up a varied program: from campus tours to tram parties – there is something in it for

everyone. After an intensive semester that saw many friendships form, many students will take wonderful memories of the university and the city of Bremen back to their home countries.

The farewell barbecue also gave the International Office an opportunity to say goodbye to the students and to invite them to become alumni of the University of Bremen. The 'Alumni' tote bags were a major hit! We are now looking forward to welcoming many new international members to the alumni association!



International students with the „Alumni“ tote bags. © Erasmus-Initiative.

There was a report on thirty years of Erasmus on 'buten un binnen'.

You can find the report, which includes one of our (Erasmus) alumni, [here](#). /IO

Shorthand symbol:

MB:
Manuela Brocksieper
MW:
Mira Wischnowsky
IO:
International Office
AL:
Annette Lang

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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