

EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



back from our summer break, we are sending you our fourth newsletter in 2016.

In May, we held our summer fête where we welcomed many alumni on a beautiful sunny day. As part of the event, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our association. Shortly after that, a group of alumni visited the German Bundestag in Berlin. For further details, please refer to the respective reports

on this page. It is with great happiness that we announce the major success of the 'B-Human' team of the University of Bremen and the DFKI. The team, which is partially sponsored by our association this year, won the Robot Soccer World Cup in July and was thus able to bring the cup back to Bremen after three years (see page 3). We would like to extend our warmest congratulations!

Has this made you curious? In September, you can experience the robotic soccer players live as part of our series 'Networking of, for and with alumni'. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter!

With best wishes,



Derk Schönfeld

The Alumni Network Goes Berlin!

In early June, a true highlight took place for the alumni association – a day trip to Berlin. Destination: The German Bundestag, where we were supposed to meet its member Marie-Luise Beck (Alliance '90/The Greens). Yet, prior to that, the 23 participating alumni had gathered at Bremen Central Station to travel to Berlin at the crack of dawn. Among them were four recipients of the Deutschlandstipendium. These scholarships are awarded by the university and financed in part by the alumni association.

Upon arrival at Berlin Central Station, the group walked to the nearby Paul-Löbe-Haus, where we were expected for lunch in a bright cafeteria with a view onto the Spree river. The subsequently planned attendance of a plenary session on the issue of Poland was unfortunately cancelled, as the item had been removed from the agenda at short notice.

Instead, the alumni were given a

humorous account on the history and foundation of the Bundestag. Against our expectations, Marie-Luise Beck was unfortunately also not able to be there. In her place, the alumni were invited to talk to one of her research consultants. The topic about which the group was most curious was how much Bremen actually formed part of the federal politics there.

As the group enjoyed the magnificent view from the dome of the Reichstag, those cancelled items on the agenda were soon forgotten. In small groups, everyone walked up to the highest point of the dome and enjoyed the panorama. Everybody agreed, "The dome was the highlight!" At the end of the day, the alumni enjoyed the sunny weather when rounding off the day together at a beach club on the Spree.

A more detailed report as well as further pictures can be found on our website. /WB

Alumni Association Celebrates Tenth Anniversary at its Summer Fête

The alumni association of the University of Bremen turned ten. That was something we

of Finance and Administration, Dr. Martin Mehrstens, and former rector Wilfried Müller, who is considered the initiator of the alumni association.

Live music was again provided by two members of "Blauer Montag", a band from

Bremen, whose member Bernd Hesse is one of our executive board members.

Our warmest thanks go to all the guests who celebrated with us and to the Bremen-based corporate group 'team neusta', who supported us again as sponsor of the event. What a wonderful tenth birthday!

Here you can find a [photo gallery](#) of the celebration and also a [video](#).

We are already looking forward to the next Alumni Summer Fête! /YA



Convivial gatherings at our second Summer Fête. © Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V.

wanted to celebrate, and so we did! At the end of May, our second Alumni Summer Fête took place. Alumni, staff members, friends, and supporters of Bremen University gathered at Café Unique on campus in a casual atmosphere, made new contacts or revived old ones, and enjoyed the generous barbecue buffet. Among the approximately ninety guests were the Director



The Alumni in front of the German Bundestag. © Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V.



Walk on the dome of the Reichstag. © Alumni of the University of 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 Harald Mikulla. If you would also like to appear in this section, please contact Wiebke Bolle at the office at wiebke.bolle@vw.uni-bremen.de.



Alumnus at the University of Bremen
 Harald Mikulla. © Brigitte Spiering-Mikulla

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

I started university in 1979 studying law. Actually, Bremen had not been my first choice as I had already taken a few semesters in law at the FU Berlin. However, I was put off by the massive operations at the large university in Berlin with at times over 400 students attending the same lectures. So I returned to Bremen where I quickly let go of my initial skepticism towards

the university's then single-phased law degree.

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

After what I had experienced in Berlin, my most important memory is of the manageable size of the university at that time, the close contact to my fellow students and, above all, the direct and personal connection to the university lecturers, which was something I had particularly missed in Berlin.

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

I have definitely been positively influenced by my experience of the already mentioned single-phased law degree, which was supposed to serve as a blueprint for a comprehensive reform of the way in which lawyers were educated. Unfortunately, it has a mere historical value today. While today the first contact to legal practices occurs in the framework of the traineeship,

the much earlier participation in legal practices then – for me it constituted internships at the juvenile and district courts as well as at the Senate Commission for Human Resources – and the critical reflection of my university lecturers helped me enormously

„The development of the Uni of Bremen can be described as a success story.“

in preparation for my subsequent professional practice in legal consulting and the support of small and medium-sized enterprises.

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

That's a difficult question because today's circumstances are probably very different from those of over thirty years ago. The following may be true today, however: Keep

an open mind and a healthy curiosity, and never lose sight of the practical relevance among the certainly necessary science and research.

5. What do you associate with the University of Bremen? Please complete the following sentence: "The University of Bremen is..."

...a very important part of my life that paved the way for a thirty-year development that can well be described as a success story.

6. What does Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V. stand for in your eyes? Please complete the following sentence: „In my eyes, Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V. is..."

...a special platform to re-establish contact to the University of Bremen after such a long time and to engage in conversation with other alumni.
 /YA

School Meets University: 'Stadtforscher' Present Results

‘People new to Bremen’ was this year's given topic for the 'Stadtforscher' project. The aspect chosen by the majority of the participating schools was flight and migration. What are the capacities for refugees at schools? What awaits the refugees in the future? And what is the motivation for moving to Bremen in general? These and further questions were addressed by the students over the last few months. A research team of the Oberschule am Leibnizplatz, for example,

created an illustrative model on the often emotionally formed opinions about refugees within the different districts of Bremen.

The annual project of the Bremen 'Stadtforscher' ([see our Campus Story in our March 2016 newsletter](#)) ended in June with two public events, at which the participating student groups presented their research findings at the House of Science behind the Bremen Cathedral and on the university campus. In the foyer of GW2 at the university, many versatile and creative project realizations

were presented: live interviews, videos, and elaborate models and posters. "By working on the project, we were able to gain better insight into the debate on refugees. In the end, it is a topic that concerns us all! We were able to learn and find out a lot. And on top of that, researching was great fun," says Tarik Yaman, student at Wilhelm-Olbers-Schule.

You can find further information on the Bremen 'Stadtforscher' project [HERE](#). /WB

Thirty Years of Geosciences in Bremen

An occasion to celebrate: This year, the Department of Geosciences turns thirty and can look back on a success story.

One of the accomplishments of the department is the establishment of the Centre for Marine Environmental Research (MARUM). Its Cluster of Excellence "The Ocean in the Earth System" contributed to the university's title as University of Excellence granted in 2012.

The celebration took place in June and was attended by about 200 guests from the sciences and politics. Professor Eva Quante-Brandt, Senator for Science, Health and Consumer Protection, gave a welcome speech.

/YA

Networking of, for and with Alumni

Our next event in this series, a visit to the Böttcherstraße in Bremen on August 23, is already fully booked. At the invitation of Dr. Tim Neseemann, an alumnus of Bremen University, chairman of the board of our association and chairman of the board at Sparkasse Bremen AG, we will be taken on a tour through the Böttcherstraße and the adjacent museums before rounding off the event on the roof terrace of the Paula Modersohn-Becker Museum.

Another event has already been planned for September: a visit to the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). On September 20 at 6 p.m., Professor Rolf Drechsler invites us to the research area Cyber-Physical Systems of

the University of Bremen and the DFKI. There, we will gain insight into



The BAALL. © DFKI/ Foto: Annemarie Hirth

two exciting projects. First, we will visit the BAALL – Bremen Ambient Assisted Living Lab, an intelligent apartment that adapts to the needs of its residents. In the test environment, mobile assistance and support systems for senior citizens are being developed, and their suitability for

everyday use is tested. Among the items are a sink that adjusts to the optimal height by means of a sensor and a wheel chair that automatically avoids obstacles.

Secondly, we will be meeting the five-time world champion in Robotic Soccer, 'B-Human'. A combination of different aspects of artificial intelligence is being used for the autonomous robots, helping them to analyze the field, make tactical decisions, and move around independently. Subsequently, we will round off the evening together. Participation is limited to 35 people. The event will end at around 8:30 p.m.

You can find further information on the DFKI [HERE](#). Please register by submitting our [online form](#).

Save the Date!

On October 25, 2016, at 4 p.m., the **annual general meeting** of Alumni of the University of Bremen will take place.

An official invitation will be sent to all members of the association via email.

Laura Seelkopf Receives Max Weber Fellowship

The call for applications of the 'Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies' for the academic year



Laura Seelkopf.

2016/2017 resulted in more than 1,100 contenders applying for approximately fifty scholarships. Laura Seelkopf, who has been conducting research at Bremen University's Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy (SOCIUM) since January 2015, is one of the lucky recipients of one of these fellowships at the European University Institute in Florence. From September onward, she will further advance her research project, an international comparison of national tax policies and their effects on economic inequality in different societies. The institute in Florence is one of the leading institutions for comparative research on societies and political systems. In addition to excellent research conditions, Florence also offers an interdisciplinary academic environment. /YA

Alumni e.V. Sponsors World Champions

In early July, the 20th Robot Soccer World Cup took place, the 'RoboCup', at which the robotic soccer team 'B-Human' from the University of Bremen was one of the competitors. More than 35,000 participants and visitors from over 45 countries gathered at the site of the Leipzig Trade Fair on the weekend of the tournament. An exhibition, a supporting scientific program, and a large interactive program were offered in addition to the games between the competing teams.

Under the direction of Tim Laue, the university's team 'B-Human' has competed at the RoboCup for years. "It's simply fun, and the victories allow us to experience visible success of our efforts of several months," the students stated.

In a gripping final against UT Austin Villa, the robots from Bremen won after a



The winner team.

© B-Human

penalty shoot-out and are hence RoboCup World Champions. The award for the most valuable team player was also won by the team from Bremen.

As a sponsor, our alumni association is of course particularly proud of the team and again would like to extend its warmest congratulations on this great success! By the way, [in our May newsletter we introduced the team members in an interview](#), and in September you will be able to visit the team as part of our series 'Networking of, for and with alumni'.

You can find all RoboCup results [HERE](#). /WB



Training with the Bulls from the Hanseatic League

“It all began with the hype surrounding the last Super Bowl,” explains Lars Tangemann, coach of the university’s newly founded American football team. Around that time, the current players found each other on the social network ‘Jodel’ and decided to put together an American football team for Bremen University. Arrangements were immediately made with the university sports office, and their idea was actually implemented by the summer semester of this year – the ‘University of Bremen Hansa Bulls’ were born. The name was one of the first joint team decisions.

Fun and Team Experience

Since then, a strong core of the team has developed. The abilities and preferences of

team experience. Everybody over the age of eighteen can participate, student or not. We are just starting out anyways and do not want to compete with other teams before next spring.” Nevertheless, some test games are planned to take place this year.

On the Field

At the moment, the altogether about seventy men train every Monday and Tuesday night on the artificial turf on campus. A typical training session takes about two hours and is always organized in a similar manner: At first, everyone starts together with a warm-up, after which groups of team members train different moves according to position, and prepare themselves for the



Coach Lars Tangemann explains the tactics.

© Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V.

the players determined who played which positions. In addition to Lars Tangemann, Marius Kruse is also currently a coach of the team. They both have played in American football clubs for several years and know all the tips, tricks, and pitfalls of the game. Alongside them, however, a few experienced players also carry out some of the training units. In the long term, however, the university team seeks permanent head coaches. In order to join the ‘Hansa Bulls’, no prior knowledge of American football is necessary. Tangemann explains, “It is mainly about the fun and the

test game towards the end of practice. An exhausting cardio workout with the entire team follows, before training finishes with a short team debriefing and a training analysis. In regular intervals, theory units are included in order to broaden the knowledge of

complicated tactics and moves.

The football team has already set up an



Cardio workout with the entire team.

© Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V.

excellent online presence. It uses its own website and [Facebook](#) to organize training

sessions and to spread news about the team. They all also benefit from the fact that some of the student members have the necessary expertise that has allowed the ‘Hansa Bulls’ to create its own logo as well as [a professional website.](#)

Quest for Sponsors

“Initially, I could have never imagined such great interest in the sport. Yet at the first training, 75 people showed up! Their passion for American football really binds them together,” coach Marius Kruse explains. Now, team members also get together privately, for example for the beer festival.

The University Sports Association at the University of Bremen has been assisting the athletes from the very beginning and provides the training space as well as the necessary equipment. Initial talks with potential sponsors have also been taking place recently. While the coaches stress that developing an accurate technique takes first priority for now, protective gear as well as jerseys are on the list of items to be purchased in the near future. /WB

Nomination of Three Further Research Ambassadors

In June 2016, three further Research Ambassadors received their certificates. In early June, Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Vice Rector for International Relations and Diversity at the University of Bremen, presented Frank Wilderson from UC Irvine, USA, with his certificate, who had been nominated by Professor Sabine Broeck. Wilderson and Broeck will place a focus on promoting international mobility of students from the US and have plans for joint research projects in transnational literary studies. Together with the International Office, they are also currently working on a symposium of and with alumni on the topic of 'Black Studies', which will take place in the USA in 2017.

At the end of June, Annette Lang, director of the International Office, presented two further Research Ambassadors with their certificates, one to Krishnendu Chakrabarty from Duke University, USA, and one to Professor Kolyang from the University of Maroua in

In order to establish and strengthen international research contacts and to increase the visibility of Bremen University globally, the ambassadors intend to carry out different projects. Professor Chakrabarty plans to establish a reciprocal student exchange through an 'Undergraduate Internship Programme',



Director of the International Office, Anette Lang (middle), presented the certificates to Professor Kolyang (l.) and Chakrabarty (r.)
 © Regine Moll

at first aimed at students in Electrical Engineering or Computer Science. The program would allow one or two students to do a fully funded internship at Duke University. In return, Bremen University will accept students for an internship

via the Bremen International Student Internship Program (BISIP).

Professor Kolyang intends on strengthening the international network in Cameroon. With his home university, the University of Maroua, he also adds another pillar to the proposal for a project with universities in Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. Kolyang is a member of the Conseil Africain et Malgache d'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), a university council for universities in Africa and Madagascar. Moreover, being an IT expert, he is also in charge of distance learning offers and will represent the University of Bremen at various events, such as the CAMES council meeting in October 2016 in Burkina Faso and at the AAU (African Association of Universities). There are also plans of further expanding the regional alumni group in Cameroon in collaboration with the colleagues at our partner university Ngaoundéré.

You can find further information on the Research Ambassador Program as well as the appointed ambassadors [HERE](#). /IO



The campus from a bird's eye perspective: This spectacular view was published by the university in July. We wish all Alumni a great summer – whether you spend it in Bremen or elsewhere in the world.

Shorthand symbol:

YA:
Yvonne Asendorf
WB:
Wiebke Bolle
IO:
International Office

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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