



EDITORIAL



Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,

this is the last newsletter of 2016. Another year in which a lot has happened both in our alumni association and at the Univer-

sity of Bremen. We look back as well as ahead and are excited to now have around 2,700 current members. After having changed our name in 2015, we were able to also present you with our new logo at the beginning of 2016. In addition to that, our event series 'Networking of, for and with alumni' has seen great developments and has been very well received. On February 01, 2017, we will continue the series with another highlight: We will be visiting the DGzRS, i.e. the German Maritime Search and

Rescue Association (see page 3). We also congratulate Lutz Mädler for the Leibniz Prize 2017 (see page 3)!

On behalf of the board of directors and the administrative office, I wish you a wonderful Christmas season, festive holidays, and a happy and successful new year!

With best wishes from campus,

D. Schönfeld

Scholarship Award Ceremony 2016

Six years of the Deutschlandstipendium – that is six years, in which students have been awarded for their outstanding commitment. This year's award ceremony took place on November 23, and we are proud to announce that the alumni association financed five of the scholarships. Congratulations to all honorees! /LT

New Colleague

Some of you may have noticed that the alumni association has a new staff member. May we introduce to you: Petra Morschheuser! She has been working in our administrative office full-time since November 1.

From now on, Petra Morschheuser will be the first point of contact for our members.



"I am very excited to be a part of the association now and hope for wonderful encounters as well as fruitful conversations!"

How Smart Is My Child?

Looking for children for nonverbal intelligence test! In a current project of the Uni of Bremen, the comparative values of a nonverbal intelligence test are to be updated. Therefore, the Center for Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation is looking for children at the age of two to seven years who will take the test. The children's parents will receive the test results free of charge. If you are interested in the project, please contact our alumna Pola Ronniger (0421/ 218-68638 | ronniger@uni-bremen.de)

Alumni General Meeting by the Weser

On October 25, 2016, the eleventh general meeting of the alumni association took place. This year, all participants gathered at the Teerhof Guest House of the University of Bremen. Partici-



pants were able to admire the fantastic view of the Weser before the official beginning of the meeting while enjoying coffee and cookies. Moored directly opposite: the hotel and gastronomy ship 'Alexander von Humboldt'.

The official part of the meeting was opened by executive director Derk Schönfeld, which was followed by an account of the most recent changes and news within the association, which was provided by deputy chairman of the board Michael Wolff. The positive development in terms of the increasing number of members continued in 2016. Compared with the last general meeting in October 2015, the association's membership increased by 11 percent. The high numbers in membership have resulted in the need for more professional technology for the administration of the members. Wolff reported that new software will be implemented in the coming year, which will facilitate administration and allows for automated queries of our members' interests and their professional status. It will further facilitate automated updates of contact data – on a voluntary basis of course. Our associ-

ation's funds helped support several projects at the University of Bremen. Among others, the association sponsors five [Deutschlandstipendium scholarships](#), the partnership between the University of Bremen and the bremer shakespeare company in the project '[Aus den Akten auf die Bühne](#)' (Out of the files onto the stage), and the Bremen robot soccer team and reigning world champion '[B-Human](#)'. In addition to that, we supported the university project 'PAL – Problem, Analysis, Solution of the Department of Biology and Chemistry. Please refer to our campus story on page 4 for more information on that.

The event series 'Networking of, for and with alumni', which has successfully been implemented in 2015, is to be expanded in 2017. The association's human resources are currently not sufficient for an increase in such offers. At this point, the association has to fully rely on the initiative and voluntary commitment by

its members. Building regulars' tables as well as regional and interest groups outside of Bremen can only be organized by members themselves. Naturally, these efforts can be supported through our administrative office in Bremen.



The end-of-year report for 2015 and an outlook of the association's finances for 2016 were presented by our treasurer Dr.-Ing. Reinhard Ahlers. The association closed fiscal year 2015 with a positive financial result. The same is expected for 2016. The general meeting formally approved of the activities of the board of directors on the recommendation of cash auditor Dr. Mathias Witt. The ensuing get-together allowed for the participants to engage in conversation and enjoy the view on the Schlachte at night. /WB

6 QUESTIONS FOR...

In each newsletter, we ask six questions to one of our members about their time in Bremen. For this issue, we interviewed art curator Dr. Katerina Vatsella. She obtained her doctorate in art in Bremen and today works as an independent exhibition curator and publicist. If you are interested in appearing in this section as well, please contact our administrative office at alumni@uni-bremen.de.



© Katerina Vatsella

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

I studied art history at the University of Zurich and did my doctorate in art in Bremen in 1996. The decision for Bremen had been a different one, though, because I came to Bremen for personal reasons – my husband is from Bremen.

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

Since I wrote my dissertation while

working, I spent little time at the university. That's why I was extremely glad about the support of my supervisor Prof. Michael Müller and his very open, constructive, and collegial supervision of my thesis – at that point I was much older than other students. However, due to my long-term participation in the Rector's Circle, I established a closer relationship to the university and got to know many of its research divisions which downright captivated me.

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

I couldn't name a single thing or person. My family for sure, as they always supported my plans, and my professors in Zurich and Bremen, who were inspired by their profession and were able to convey that. But probably also my attitude of being open to everything new and sei-

zing opportunities even when they were not yet entirely clear-cut. At any rate: enthusiasm for my profession, which is so versatile.

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

The curriculum has become much tighter, and there is little time to look into topics which are not mandatory. Yet, I would still like to advise everyone to also broaden their horizon by fostering their scientific curiosity in addition to learning the

fundamentals as it will allow for interconnections and new perspectives both in class and later in a job.

5. What do you associate with the University of Bremen? Please complete the follo-

wing sentence: "The University of Bremen is..."

... a wonderful place to learn not only for one's profession but also for life.

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 valuable institution that allows for meeting old friends again even after years have passed since my studies and/or for making new contacts. And these contacts are not exclusively from my field but from all sorts of fields and professions, whose common basis is the link to Bremen University. This can be a great advantage both professionally and personally. Plus, the association facilitates staying in contact with my university and its developments without any effort. /WB

„The Uni of Bremen is a wonderful place to learn for life.“

Federal Funding for the Virtual Academy Sustainability

The Virtual Academy Sustainability of the University of Bremen was able to win the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as a partner and promoter and will receive funding of more than one million Euro in the coming three years. The academy is the only institution in Germany to offer classes on sustainable development across the German university system. Due to its virtual nature, it can be reached at any time and from nearly any place. There are currently seventeen digital classes available. It is the aim to use the grant to expand the free-of-charge offer of online courses for the education on sustainable developments and establish it at additional universities in Germany.

Please click [HERE](#) for more information. /LT

Bremen University Promotes Young Scholars of Education with 'Dual Doctorate'

The 'Dual Doctorate' is a quality concept that is part of the teacher training at the Uni of Bremen and unparalleled in Germany. It combines



Senator of Science Professor Eva Quante-Brandt.

© University of Bremen

the 'Referendariat' (traineeship), which is the second training phase for aspiring teachers after obtaining their university degree, with a dissertation. Its aim is to gain academically qualified young researchers for didactics and education. According to Prof. Andreas Grünewald, coordinator of the project, schools have a growing demand for scientifically substantiated school and teaching developments in order to do justice to the increasingly heterogeneous student

body. At a festive opening event at the House of Science, the first six scholarship holders were welcomed by the Senator of Science, Professor Eva Quante-Brandt, as well as representatives from the world of science and the teacher training program of the Uni of Bremen. The scholarships are funded within the framework of the "Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung" (quality initiative teacher training) of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. "The 'Dual Doctorate' provides the graduates with an outstanding possibility of combining their traineeship with a doctorate. This creates a strong incentive for them to continue their scientific work at the Uni of Bremen after obtaining their doctorate. I assume that this facilitation will allow for the necessary upward trend in young scholars in the field of teacher training," the senator said. You can find further information [HERE](#). /LT

Invited by Bremen's Sea Rescuers

The first event in the new year will be a visit to the German Maritime Search and Rescue Association (DGzRS) on February 1, 2017.

For 151 years now, the sea rescuers have been working voluntarily, relentlessly independently, and funded exclusively by donations. Almost one thousand rescuers are on standby around the clock. About 800 of them are volunteers and frequently risk their own life in order to save that of others. Every sea rescue mission on the North and Baltic Seas between the Dutch and the Polish borders is coordinated in Bremen – the DGzRS headquarters has been in

Bremen from the very beginning. Additionally, seafarers across the world can draw on know-how of the Bremen sea rescuers.

On invitation by our alumnus Ul-



Headquarters of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Association.

rich C. Reiter, head of marketing and fundraising at the DGzRS, we are given the chance to have a look behind the scenes and get

to know the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, the repair yard, and a museum rescue vessel. Mr. Reiter will lead the tour and explain, among other things, why the German sea rescue is privately organized instead of publicly.

Participants will meet at 6 p.m. at the entrance of the sea rescue center at Werderstraße 2, directly on the Weser. The tour and discussion will take about two hours. The subsequent get-together

will as always provide ample opportunity for conversation. Participation is limited to 50 people. Please register via our [website](#).

Research Award for Bremen Graduate

Every two years, the work group for industrial-technical sciences and their didactics (gtw) of the Association for Work



Gtw Spokesman Matthias Becker awarded the prize.

© University of Bremen

Sciences (Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft e.V. – GfA) honors outstanding scientific works. As part of the gtw fall conference in Hanover, the research awards 'Industrial-Technical Sciences' 2016 were presented to the honorees. One of the two awards this year, each worth 600 Euro and financially supported by the company FESTO, was awarded to alumna Britta Schlömer, who graduated from the University of Bremen in education for vocational schools. She received the award for her master thesis with the title 'Development of a Competency Model for Technical Product Designers'. The jury stated that her work makes an important contribution for the development of knowledge in the industrial-technical sciences and their didactics. /WB

Leibniz Prize for the University of Bremen

Another Bremen scientist receives the most prestigious German research award: Professor Lutz Mädler will be presented with the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in March 2017. The DFG will



© IWT Jörg Klampäcker

engineering. Along with the distinction, he is awarded 2.5 million Euro.

After approving of Mädler's collaborative research center 'Farbige Zustände', Rector Bernd Scholz-Reiter sees the DFG's decision as another attestation of the outstanding level of excellence of Bremen's Materials Science. The honoree himself is also delighted: "The Leibniz Prize means a tremendous honor and

recognition for me personally. I would like to thank the University of Bremen and my colleagues for their wholehearted support and fruitful collaboration over the past years. The additional funds will open up many new possibilities for the realization of my research ideas."

There are now six Leibniz honorees at the University of Bremen. The alumni association would like to extend their heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Mädler and the University of Bremen on their success! /WB

An Evening with Max Liebermann

At the end of November, the event series 'Networking of, for and with alumni' met for the last time in 2016 at the Kunsthalle Bremen. Our alumni had been invited by exhibition curator Katerina Vatsella. The art gallery's executive director, Stefan Schnier, welcomed the participants and provided them with insights to the daily work routine at the Kunsthalle Bremen. He explained the Bremen Art Association and the preparation that is necessary for a new exhibiti-

on. Two full years go by between the initial planning and the grand opening.

Afterwards, the alumni were able to address the executive director with their questions. He remarked that about half of the art gallery's visitors were not from Bremen but from out of town. "The success of an exhibition depends on how well we manage to be noticed outside of our region," Schnier added.

Subsequently, the alumni visited the current Max Liebermann

exhibition 'From Leisure to Modern Sport' with Katerina Vatsella,



Katerina Vatsella at her tour through the exhibition.

who provided interesting details throughout her tour through the

exhibition. For example, it turns out that Liebermann was long known as the 'painter of ugliness'. Furthermore, he himself was not a great sportsman in contradiction to what the paintings may lead to believe. It was just the movements that fascinated him in polo, boxing, and tennis. According to Liebermann, sports should only be done recreationally. The highly successful event was rounded off at the 'Theatro'. /WB

Crash Course at Refugee Projects

The Department of Biology and Chemistry of the University of Bremen came up with a special idea for the winter semester 2016/17: As part of the module 'PAL' (Problem – Analysis – Solution), participants will organize projects for refugees together. For its practical application, the module was opened for members of our association.

Unlike normally, not only students are working on the pilot project but also people with practical experience. In order for the endeavor to work, they participated in an eight-hour crash course in project management taught by Susanne Geue, a professional in the field. She holds an engineering degree and has been coaching workshops in the field of project management all over Germany since 2003 together with her husband. The alumni association financially supports the PAL-module and covered the cost of the workshop. We were your eyes and ears for the day.

Students and Alumni

Among the PAL participants were several biology students, scientific staff members of the Department of Biology and Chemistry at Bremen University, and some of our association's members. "Studying means trying it out! This is why practical general studies modules such as PAL are so important for students. When they are further combined with professional workshops, it's simply fantastic!" said Prof. Dr. Juliane Filser (Department of Biology and Chemistry) on the day of the crash course. She initiated the

project together with her colleague Prof. Dr. Rita Groß-Hardt.

Crash Course Exercises

Right at the beginning, the participants were challenged with a creative task: They were asked to draw themselves as a symbol and use it to introduce themselves to the others.

This exercise created an open and

friendly atmosphere.

Afterwards, some rules and joint goals were defined. In the course of the day, the PAL participants worked out valuable strategies for a successful project development. Different approaches as well as tools such as the '4 Thinking Profiles' (Visionary, Doer, Analyst, Protector), the SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), and the GDPM method (Goal Directed Project Management) were explained by coach Susanne Geue and put into practice by the group in several exercises.

PAL Kickoff

The PAL participants all asked themselves the question as to how to start their endeavor. On the day of the workshop, the projects were all still at the very beginning, i.e. at the stage of finding an idea. Therefore, Susanne Geue was able to give useful tips for the initial phase. The only set goals were the support of refugees and making a change for the long term. Rita



These two PAL participations trying to find new ideas for Refugees Projects.

Groß-Hardt commented: "We believe that we can trigger something. We want to think big!"

At the end of the crash course, one of the participating students said: "I learned today that every project is about finding solutions – not about being right. Social competencies and communication are essential for a successful collaboration. I hope that we can accomplish that in the PAL module."

University with Powerful Lever

One of the advantages of the collaboration between students, university staff, and alumni is that people think from different perspectives. "We have a different lever – different contacts and liaisons. Therefore, we can achieve something big together with the students," said Rita Groß-Hardt as one of the representatives of Bremen University. Connections to the government are to be another useful asset to promote PAL. "Its great structure and connections are also among the things that make Bremen University excellent," Juliane Filser added as well as that another focus of the project should be to have fun.

/WB



Coach Susanne Geue explains important facts in project management.



Creative task: „Draw yourself as a symbol...“

Alumni Reunion in China

During a trip to China, Vice Rector Prof. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu and Annette Lang, director of the International Office, met with alumni in Beijing and Shanghai. Former students and researchers of the University of Bremen meet regularly in both cities in order to exchange memories from their time in Bremen but also to profit from each other's experiences and to network. The University of Bremen also sees the alumni as important points of contact. For example, they can support students from Bremen looking for an internship or Chinese students interested in studying in Bremen. The future plan is to connect the alumni in Bremen more closely with the alumni in Bei-

jing and Shanghai. In order to do that, we will query the interests and needs on both sides and initiate the network. If you are interested in an exchange with the alumni in China, please contact us at alumni@uni-bremen.de. /IO



Alumni Reunion in Peking.

New Research Ambassador

On November 9, 2016, Prof. Dr. Enzo Morosini Frazzon was honored as the seventh Research Ambassador of the university. From now on, he will be representing the University of Bremen in Brazil and function as a contact person for interested researchers. Enzo Frazzon has been a professor at the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) since 2010. Between 2009 and 2010, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics (BIBA) and completed his doctorate on the topic "Sustainability and Effectiveness in Global Logistics Systems: An Approach Based on a Long-Term Learning Process" at the BIBA. The University of Bremen is delighted with Enzo Frazzon's decision of taking on this role and is excited for the future collaboration. The other Research Ambassadors are from China, Cameroon, Mexico, and the USA. All of them are introduced on this [website](#). /IO

Bremen University Information Day in Maroua

On November 30, the University of Bremen's Information Day took place in Maroua, Cameroon. Early in the morning, the participants were welcomed, and Research Ambassador Prof. Dr. Kolyang introduced the University of Bremen. Subsequently, talks were given on German Studies in Maroua and the German Club of the Higher Teachers Training College at Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences. After a short breakfast break, Brice Chuepo informed the participants about the DAAD scholarships awarded to students without a German citizenship who are enrolled at the University of Bremen. After that, Dr. Dayang Paul and Dr. Mazi Sanda spoke about the eight-year-old cooperation (2008-2016) between Ngaoundere and Bremen. At the end, students had the opportunity to address questions to the speakers. /IO

University Fair for Studies and Internships Abroad

Raising the number of students who go abroad to study or for an internship during their studies is one of the major goals for the internationalization strategy of the University of Bremen.

In order to inform students thoroughly on this topic, the International Office organized the sixth university fair for studies and internships abroad this year. On November 9, 2016, 21 institutions and companies from in and outside the university provided information on programs, financing, and individual possibilities of a short or long-term stay abroad in Europe or overseas. Furthermore, student experts provided a personal insight into the 'Adventure Abroad' at the partner university lounge.

This was also the place for students to look through the info material of the many partner universities within Bremen University's network.

At the same time, the fair included an extensive number of talks on different topics such as exchange and scholarship programs, internships abroad for students in sciences or engineering, as well as volunteer service in Southeast Asia.

Special Focus on China

This year, the fair's thematic focus was China, which was developed in collaboration with the Confucius Institute. Thanks to its generous support, the country special involved detailed information on the Chinese university system, exchange opportunities at Chinese partner universities, the German-Chinese scientific relations, and scholarship programs as well as jobs and internships in China. The diverse program also offered a first glimpse into the Chinese culture. /IO

Shorthand symbol:

LT:
Linh Truong
WB:
Wiebke Bolle
IO:
International Office

All of the used pictures in the Newsletter are taken from the alumni of the University of Bremen, if not marked differently.

About:

Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V.
c/o Universität Bremen
Managing Director: Derk H. Schönfeld
Enrique-Schmidt-Str. 7
28359 Bremen
Germany
alumni@uni-bremen.de

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