

## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



this is the last newsletter you will be receiving in 2015; a year, in which there have been many changes for the Alumni Network and at the University of Bremen. We are happy to announce that we now have approximately

2,400 members.

Far-reaching decisions have been made at the general meeting in October – a new name that describes us more clearly and explicitly: Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. (Alumni of the University of Bremen). You can find more information on this in the news section.

Our series 'Networking of, for and with alumni' is doing well and is very well received. It will be continued in 2016, and we are beginning the new year with a highlight: On January 27, 2016, we will be guests at the SV Werder Bremen. Further information on the event can be found on [page 3](#).

On behalf of the board of directors and the administrative office, I would like to already wish you a wonderful Christmas season and peaceful holidays!

With best wishes from campus,



Derk Schönfeld

## University of Bremen Scientists Involved in Resolving the Origin of the Hepatitis Virus

Scientists have occupied themselves for a long time with the evolutionary origin of the hepatitis viruses. With substantial involvement of the virologists of the University of Bremen surrounding professor Andreas Dotzauer, an international consortium now succeeded at explaining the mysterious origin of the hepatitis A virus. By detecting ancient relatives of the human hepatitis A virus in small mammals, a genealogical tree of the virus could be reconstructed. There are indications that the virus originated from very ancient insect viruses, which managed to adapt to the new mammal hosts. The virus could then be passed on from these insectivorous mammals to small rodents and from there also to humans.

The study shows the necessity to analyze in depth animal viruses and their hosts in order to be able to assess the risk of transmitting them to humans as well as their potential health effects.

## University of Bremen Has New Vice Rector for Research and Young Academics

Since November 1st, the University of Bremen has had a new Vice Rector for Research and Young Academics: Professor Andreas Breiter is successor to Professor Kuroschi Rezwani, who had been in this position for two years. Breiter is a professor from Applied Computer Science and will be in office until March 31, 2018. Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter, Rector of the University of Bremen, showed himself very content with the result: "I am happy with fellow colleague Andreas Breiter we are winning a Vice Rector who will continue the work of his predecessor and add his own ideas. Against the backdrop of the significant challenges of the next years, such as the continuation of the Excellence Initiative, consistency in content in the rectorate is highly important. In my view, Andreas Breiter is the perfect successor to Kuroschi Rezwani, who I would like to express my deepest gratitude for his great commitment to the



f.l.: New vice rector Andreas Breiter with rector Bernd Scholz-Reiter and Kuroschi Rezwani.

university."

Breiter sees his main goal in further developing an interdisciplinary research strategy of the university in close cooperation with all departments within the university as well as with external Bremen-based research institutions. Another main goal for him is the support of young academics.

Andreas Breiter joined the University of Bremen in 1997 as a research associate. In 2004, he was made junior professor of Applied Computer Science in the department of Mathematics/Computer Science, which was made permanent in 2008. In addition to that, he has been the executive director at the Institute for Information Management Bremen GmbH since 2011.

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## Results of the 2015 General Meeting

In early October, our general meeting took place. The board of directors shared information on the current development of the association, discussed future priorities with participants, and gave an outlook on the coming year. Yet, center of the meeting stood the amendment of the statutes, which had been proposed by the board of directors, and which was accepted unanimously by the members. The most important changes are as follows. Our association will no longer be called 'community bremen e.V.' but will be renamed 'Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V.'. The hope of the board of directors is that this more transparent name will lead to a clearer identification of its members and will make the association better known in the long term. The change in name will go hand in hand with the development of a new logo and an altered image of the association. Furthermore, it is now possible for staff members of the University of Bremen and its scientific partner institutions to join the association as well. "I am convinced that the amendment to the statutes constitutes the first step on the path of the association 'Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V.' to continue their successful work in the future," Christoph Sodemann, Deputy Chairman of the Board, comments.

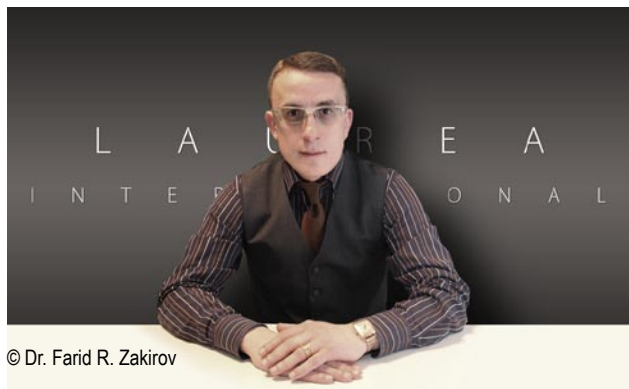
## The New Semester Brings 5,500 New Students to the University of Bremen

In October, approximately 5,500 new students started studying at the University of Bremen. Of these, about 4,000 are undergraduate students or pursuing a degree in law, and 1,500 are pursuing a Master's degree. We would like to warmly welcome all new students to the University of Bremen!

# 6 QUESTIONS FOR...

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

**D**r. Farid R. Zakirov worked as a corporate counsel and was admitted as a lawyer in Uzbekistan. After graduating from the University of Bremen he worked for the 'Bremer Baumwollbörse' and afterwards as the general agent of the Uzbek silk factory in Germany. He founded a consulting business in Bremen. Currently, he is the advisor to the president and owner of the Swiss watch manufacture QUINTING AG for Germany, Russia and Uzbekistan. Since October 2014 he is regularly holding lectures in Public Law at the University of Bremen. Contact: [www.laurea-international.com](http://www.laurea-international.com).



© Dr. Farid R. Zakirov

## 1. Why did you choose to study at the University of Bremen?

Following my Bachelor's degree of International Law and the admission as a lawyer in Uzbekistan I came to Bremen as a DAAD / OSI scholarship for postgraduate studies in 2001. After completing the studies I did a PhD at the Faculty of Law with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's sponsorship.

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

The most important memory I have is the intensive exchange with students from different countries and cultures. I

still enjoy having a close contact with my former fellow students from many countries.

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

My teachers Professor Peter Derleder, retired Judge at the Hanseatic Higher Regional Court of Bremen, and Professor Hagen Lichtenberg, have strongly influenced my personal and professional development. My previous position at the "Bremer Baumwollbörse", headed by the former Managing Director, Jan Wellmann, and the experiences I made there also influenced my career.

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

I would advise every student to go abroad - not only for vacation, but at least for a few months to study. I would love to see more students spending time abroad in

Russia.

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

... is the place that shaped my career.“

## 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 link to „my“ University of Bremen and a way to maintain contacts or to reestablish them again.“

„I still enjoy having a close contact with my former fellow students from many countries.“

## Bremen to Host International Astronautical Congress in 2018

It has been decided: Bremen will be the host of the 2018 International Astronautical Congress (IAC). In the decision process, Bremen prevailed against the applications from Vienna (Austria) and Punta del Este (Uruguay). Bremen previously hosted the IAC, the world's biggest astronautical congress with approximately 3,500 participants, in 2003.

"This is a great success for Bremen. In our application, we were able to optimally present Bremen's leading position as the top location in Europe for the aerospace industry as well as aerospace research. This success is the result of the excellent cooperation between the involved Bremen aerospace companies, Bremen-based aerospace research, and the government," said Martin Günthner, Senator of Economic Affairs, Labour and Ports.

Professor Claus Lämmerzahl, the executive director of the Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) of the University of Bremen and chair of the local organizing committee, is equally excited: "I am convinced that hosting the IAC can play a major role in emphasizing the aerospace location Bremen even more."

## Company from Bremen Granted Patent for Bremen-Based Research

Transferring Bremen-based research into the economy of Bremen plays a major role in strengthening the region. The most recent example is the Bremen engineering company VACUTEC that has just been licensed for a patented process, which was developed at the Institute of Materials Science (IWT) at the University of Bremen. The invention enables the decrease of tool wear in micro cutting and facilitates machining iron and steel as well.

VACUTEC, a business with many decades of experience, manufactures precision instruments and components for precision mechanics as well as measurement technology. When looking for new techniques, the company became aware of the published patent of the IWT. VACUTEC and IWT will continue their collaboration in a research alliance in order to further optimize surface treatment of steel for processing it with diamond tools.

## „Networking from, for and with Alumni“

### Alumni at the SV Werder Bremen

We will continue our successful series 'Networking from, for and with alumni' next year as well. The first event in 2016 will be a visit to Werder Bremen on January 27th, 2016. It starts at 5:30 p.m. with the talk 'WERDER BEWEGT – CSR at the SV Werder Bremen'. Under the flag of its Corporate Social Responsibility brand (CSR) 'WERDER BEWEGT – LEBENS-LANG' (roughly: Werder moves – for life), the club together with its members and partners implements, organizes and actively advances social commitment and responsibility.

After the talk, we will receive an exclusive tour through the Weser Stadium. A get-together with refreshments, at which participants can engage in conversation, rounds off the evening. The event ends at about 8:30 p.m.



**Where:** Weser Stadium Bremen

**When:** January 27th, 2016, 5:30 pm

**Participants:** Limited to 30 persons.

### Refugees and Integration in Bremen - discussion on the current situation

The expression refugee crisis is on everyone's lips. Does it exist? How does Bremen deal with the increased number of refugees that reach Germany? What can a short-term reaction look like, and how can integration succeed in the long term? Our alumna Libuse Cerna, 1st Chairman of the Bremen Council for Integration, invites us to discuss these and other questions on February 16th, 2016. Following the discussion, there will be a get-together.

**Where:** EuropaPunktBremen, Am Markt 20, 28195 Bremen (next to the Bremen City Parliament)

**When:** February 16th, 2016, 6pm

**Participants:** Limited to 40 persons.

**Please register for both events via E-Mail (alumni@uni-bremen.de) or phone (0421 /21869777).**

## Teacher Training at the University of Bremen to Be Strengthened

The Center for Teacher Training at the University of Bremen submitted their proposal 'Shaping Interfaces – the future concept of teacher training' to the Federal and State Quality Initiative for Teacher Training ('Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung') – and successfully so! Thus, between 2016 and 2018, teacher training at the University of Bremen will receive funding of a total of 2.8 million euros.

Nine of twelve departments of the University of Bremen train teachers in a large variety of disciplines and methodologies. The new funds will be allocated to the fields of new media, professional consulting services, and practical training in order to provide a closer connection between university studies, on-the-job training, and further education. "Teachers have to be experts for lifelong learning," said professor Sabine Doff, Scientific Director at the Center for Teacher Training. "In order to achieve that, we at the University of Bremen are convinced that it is crucial for students to understand how to base their own actions theoretically, put them into practice, and reflect critically on them."

You can find further information on the Quality Initiative for Teacher Training [HERE](#).

## The University of Bremen Supports Volunteers in Their Work with Refugees

„Deutsch als Fremdsprache für Geflüchtete“ (German as a foreign language for refugees) is a new seminar at the University of Bremen which is specifically tailored to the needs of volunteers. „Didactic and methodological skills for effective language instruction are often missed," says Professor Nicole Marx. Therefore, the „paternoster" language course was developed. Students and teachers can enter and leave the seminar at any time – as in an elevator. Although the six themes of the course („people, countries, languages", „places and paths", „shopping", „time", „housing and living", „body") have a fixed order, learners can step in at any time.

The offer of the Department 10 of the University of Bremen is very well accepted. It has 16 participants this semester, not only students from the University but also professionals from the area. „We want to offer language courses in our 'welcome café'," Manuela Wölker says, a lecturer in adult education from Achim. „For that we need common-sense didactic information. That's what we get here in the seminar."

## Conflict Resolution Skills

It is a widespread prejudice that mediation is only for lawyers. However, experience from eight years of mediation training at the University of Bremen shows that less than a fifth of the participants have been from legal professions. The reason for that is that wherever people live and work together, there is conflict. That is why the ability to solve conflicts collaboratively and sustainably is a core competence for professionals and managers in all fields.

"One does not become a good mediator simply by receiving training and having professional and personal competences, but mainly by gaining practical experience," the initiators of the Bremen mediation training explain. This is why the two-year course consists of many practical training sessions. Its interdisciplinary focus is of interest to alumni from a variety of degree programs, who are interested in using cooperative procedures of conflict resolution in their jobs. Therefore, over 40% of previous participants are from social or educational professions, and about 30% of them are from business and industry.

The training program, which is tailored to working people, starts in February 2016, takes two years to complete, and comprises 30 CP. There are ten classes per academic year, which are all held at the University of Bremen and take place on weekends (i.e. Friday afternoon through midday on Sunday). After successful completion, participants receive the university certificate 'Mediation' with the title 'Mediator (University of Bremen)'. Alumni are offered a discount of the amount of their membership fee for 'Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V.'.

A brochure with detailed information can be requested from the 'Akademie für Weiterbildung'. Additionally, you can find more information [HERE](#).



## One of the Best German Hackers Is from Bremen University

The connotations that arise with the term 'hacker' are usually negative, as in somebody who spies out data and uses them mainly for illegal purposes. Henning Ziegler, who studies Computer Science at the University of Bremen, shows that there is an alternative: He describes himself as a 'good hacker'. Ziegler specializes in computer security and has now participated in the 'Cyber Security Challenge Germany' in Berlin successfully. The competition is an initiative to promoting young professionals in computer security, which is a topic that the student from Bremen has been working on passionately; by being creative, he tries to detect and close security gaps.



For the second time now, Ziegler participated in the 'Cyber Security Challenge Germany'. "During the finals, we were under severe time pressure and, for eight hours, concentrated fully on our task," said the 26-year-old. The work paid off: Henning Ziegler's team, consisting of other students from Berlin, Karlsruhe and Constance, won.

At the end of October, Ziegler and his team were again convincing and made it to second place at the European Championship in Lucerne.

After graduating, he will start working at a business of the 'team neusta'-group in the Überseestadt Bremen.

## Former University Rector Jürgen Timm Celebrates 50th Work Anniversary

Between 1982 and 2002, Professor Jürgen Timm was Rector of the University of Bremen; twenty years, in which he was a major contributor to the positive development of the university. This year, Timm celebrates his 50th anniversary in public service (including his time in the German Armed Forces). The celebrations in his honor took place in October, where current university rector Bernd Scholz-Reiter and his predecessor, Wilfried Müller, were among the speakers.

The majority of this time, Timm spent working in Bremen. As early as 1971, he was appointed as professor in the field of Statistics by the University of Bremen. He was Vice Rector for Structure, Research and Sciences between 1979 and 1981, followed by being rector of the university for twenty years.

We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations on 50 years of service!

## Two Teams of Bremen University Take Home Prizes at the 2015 CAMPUSiDEEN Competition

Two teams of the University of Bremen won against eleven other teams from Bremen's universities at the ideas competition CAMPUSiDEEN. They submitted their business ideas and plans to the founding initiative BRIDGE in order to participate in the race for prizes worth 14,000 euros. BRIDGE has been organizing the joint con-



Winner of the category 'Business Ideas': (f.l.) Kai Eggemann and Michael Meyer-Coors  
© Florian Manz

test of the University of Bremen, the University of Applied Sciences Bremen, the University of Applied Sciences Bremerhaven and the Bremer Aufbau-Bank since 2003. Since then they have received over 500 proposals from more than 800 participants.

This year, Kai Eggemann and Michael Meyer-Coors won in the category 'Business Ideas' with their project 'Kaiak', a paddle-bike whose three wheels are, via a wire system, powered and steered solely by the force of the arms. That way

it enables training outside also during winter. They have received inquiries for their construction from national teams of international aquatic athletes. You can see [HERE](#) how it works.

In the category 'Business Plans', Marco Klock's and Philipp Harsleben's digital law office assistant 'edicted GmbH' was most convincing. It is an internet platform that enables la-

wyers to subcontract orders online. The portal allows for a faster connection of principals and contractors, displays areas of expertise, and checks formal qualifications. In a very short amount of time, they were able to raise 200,000 euros through crowdfunding, and 'edicted GmbH' has since prevailed on the market.

You can find further information on the competition on the [BRIDGE website](#) as well as on [Facebook](#).



Winner of the category 'Business Plans': (f.l.) Marco Klock and Philipp Harsleben  
© Florian Manz

## Anneliese Niehoff Remains on the Board of the Federal Conference of Women's Representatives

Anneliese Niehoff, director of the Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Department of the University of Bremen, was confirmed in her office as a board member of the Federal Conference of Women's Representatives and Equal Opportunity Commissioners at Universities (BuKoF) – and with an overwhelming result: 90 of 92 university representatives with voting rights gave Anneliese Niehoff their vote for a second term in office.

BuKoF focuses on equality, empowerment of women, and gender research, and publishes gender policy statements and recommendations on scientific issues. For that purpose, the board works closely together with big economic players such as the German Research Foundation and the German Council of Science and Humanities. Anneliese Niehoff's goal for her second term is to deepen cooperation with these organizations.

## Internationalization Strategy at the University of Bremen

The internationalization strategy of the University of Bremen specifies goals and guidelines of internationalization – one of which is, for instance, the expansion of the alumni network abroad. Since the 'internationalization conference' in 2011 many things have

has started an evaluation process with a revision goal. Almost sixty representatives from departments and central institutions, from the administration and the rectorate came together at the end of October in order to discuss the accomplishments as well as new goals.



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been accomplished. The internationalization has made progress in the framework of, and thanks to, the strategy, which is why there

A working group will present first results to the rectorate and the academic senate by summer semester 2016.

## Alumni as Logistics Ambassadors

Recently, the fourth year of the 'VIA BREMEN Logistics Ambassadors' started. The initiative 'VIA BREMEN' represents the logistics location Bremen-Bremerhaven and wants to promote the performance spectrum and product range as an umbrella brand not only outside of the region but nationally and internationally. For twelve months, its Logistics Ambassadors project prepares international students in

seminars and excursions to become ambassadors to the location in their home country as alumni. Until now, the program was aimed exclusively at students of the Jacobs University; since the beginning of this winter semester students of the University of Bremen are also among the candidates.

You can find more information on the program [HERE](#).

## Yasemin Karakaşoğlu Elected as Board Member of YERUN

The University of Bremen has been a member of the 'Young European Research Universities Network' (YERUN) since January 2015. The network is made up of close to twenty member universities, which have all been founded less than fifty years ago, but nonetheless belong to the most outstanding research universities with excellent scores in the Times Higher Education Ranking of young universities. Upon invitation by the Tor Vergata University in Rome, Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Vice Rector for International Affairs and Diversity was elected as a board member of the network in their most recent meeting. At the same time, the president of the Carlos III University in Madrid, Juan Romo, was elected president of the YERUN network.

At the center of the meeting in Rome was the discussion of common themes and decisions on structures and operations. The aim is to jointly administer to present topics in university management and organize events and trainings on topics

such as governance, diversity, and entrepreneurship. European funding programs, such as the Erasmus+ program, and opportunities for staff exchange are said to play an important role. Staff members from all fields of the university are meant to profit from this network and the experience of the partners and can, for instance, spend time at the partner institutions in the framework of the Erasmus administrative staff exchange. In the medium term, joint study and doctoral programs as well as the promotion of joint research projects are also supposed to be developed. Another important goal will be lobbying for young universities. To this end, an office is being established



Yasemin Karakaşoğlu, Konrektorin für Internationalität und Diversität der Universität Bremen.

in Brussels, which will be present at the European Commission and represent the interests of these young research universities.

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

### About:

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