

## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



Do you have a few New Year's resolutions for 2017? We certainly do. These are the topics of our current newsletter:

- Bremergy – Uni Bremen's interdisciplinary race car team
- A fascinating visit to the Bremen sea rescuers (DGzRS)
- Career prospects with Alumni e.V.: we present our new event series of various interesting seminars
- The third OPEN CAMPUS – alumni faces wanted!

As always, there are also an interview, event notifications, and the latest award and celebrity gossip at the university. Bremen University remains vibrant, young, surprising, and a model for success. There will be insights full of excellence and an outlook onto an exciting 2017.

I hope you enjoy the read!

*D. Schöpfel*

## A Visit to the German Society of Sea Rescuers

The Sea Rescuers... is not the name of a new TV series – but the exciting title of the alumni association's visit in February. The topic: relentless work in life-threatening weather conditions. The German Maritime Search

voluntary sea rescuers deeply fascinated and moved the alumni. Mr.

Reiter (head of fundraising) and Dr. Monika Segl (marine geologist and volunteer) gave

us an insightful tour of a museum rescue vessel, the repair yard in the heart of Bremen, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, and a multimedia presentation on the day-to-day business of the globally active organization. The fact that very little time remained for networking among the alumni was due to the passionate and elaborate presentation of our host – a strong commitment well wor-

thy of support./MB



Alumnus Ulrich C. Reiter and Dr. Monika Segl

and Rescue Association (DGzRS) faced the alumni's awe as well as their numerous questions. Alumnus Ulrich C. Reiter, a former student of economy and a shipping agent, had invited our association – and many came to hear about this local as well as international topic, and a thrilling one at that. The work of the many full-time and



Repair yard of DGzRS-Central

## Show Us YOUR Face!

Alumni Profess to Bremen University

Celebrations are on for June 16 and 17! We will begin with our traditional summer fête on June 16, followed by the University of Bremen's OPEN CAMPUS on the next day. Their slogan 'Opening worlds – sharing knowledge' gives a taste of the colorful mix of information and entertainment, in which the university and its collaborators will present themselves. Info-tainment, as it is now called, can only mean: We're in! We will introduce the association and present our multifaceted nature to the visitors.



Campaign of the OPEN CAMPUS 2015

The campaign 'The university of Bremen is searching for their alumnis' is meant to promote the encouraging and versatile work of the alumni – which is why we

need your help. As for the OPEN CAMPUS in 2015, we want to advertise on posters and in an ad using faces of our alumni – and we are particularly looking forward to yours. Profess to the university – show yourself as part of our network. If you want to participate, we are looking forward to receiving your photo. When sending one, please make sure the photo has a high resolution (at least 300 dpi), is at least 200 KB in size, and is in a .jpg or .png format. Please do not send scanned photos. Go ahead – join in and maybe you'll be one of three lucky participants to win a surprise package! /LT

Show your commitment and show us your face!

Email photos to: [alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de).

## Save the Date

- June 16, 2017 (from 6 p.m.)  
Summer Fête of the Alumni
- June 17, 2017 (from 2 p.m.)  
OPEN CAMPUS of the University of Bremen

# 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 university lecturer Marco Höhn. He is an employee at the university of Bremen and recently joined the alumni-network. If you are interested in appearing in this section as well, please contact our administrative office at [alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de).

**Editorial Note:** The views and opinions expressed in this interview are those of the interviewee. They are solely their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editors.

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

I have been working at the University of Bremen since 2004, after Andreas Hepp basically 'poached' me away from Ilmenau University of Technology with the promise of a major development in communication and media studies in Bremen. He was right, and it was definitely the right decision.



University lecturer Marco Höhn @Marco

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

As I am in charge of media practice, the time when one of our BA students was the first one to receive a trainee position at Radio Bremen (before actually graduating) was surely a special moment for me, which showed me that our notion of teaching cooperative media practice was successful.

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

There were three people. First, Barbara Eligmann, with whom I got along as poorly on RTL as she with me. Almost at the same time, Waldemar Vogelsang from my alma mater in Trier opened the world of sociological research to me and supported me until Andreas Hepp encouraged me to go into communication and media

studies after spending some time at Stanford University.

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

First and foremost that 'CP collector' is not a profession and that very good grades actually mean very little in the job market. It is more important to use the time at university to try out new things, to orient oneself, to network, etc. In order to do so, it is vital to leave one's comfort zone and get to know

other cultures as often as possible. The idea of a holistic approach to personality development will then fall into place on its own, and that is in the end what future employers are interested in. And by the way: Reading never hurts! ;)

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

... ideally positioned in research, among others due to its successes in the Excellence Initiative. Some of the fields have also profited from that in terms of teaching, among them commu-

nication and media studies. However, I agree with the criticism by the student representatives that teaching has been neglected for the most part over the last years. The deficits in (infra) structure, finances, and personnel (which are not the responsibility of the university alone) are harmful to the pursuit of excellence in teaching. Great efforts by the university as a whole are needed in order to make teaching more flexible in content and didactics, reduce bureaucracy, and promote cooperative teaching with practical application. That way, the university could offer its students a high-quality and future-oriented education on the highest international level.

## 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..."

„It is more important to use the time at university to try out new things, to orient oneself and to network.“

...by now a part of the solution to the above mentioned problem, as it is – in my perception at least – willing to promote a future-oriented development in teaching and research and connect people as well as institutions. I would also like to use the opportunity here to wholeheartedly thank the association for supporting the initiation of our cooperation with the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Science at the Universitatea de Stat din Moldova (USM) in Chisinau!

## Support for Bremen Health Sciences

Six research projects of the health sciences at the University of Bremen have been successful in securing a total of 4.8 million Euro of the innovation fund provided by the collective self-government of the German healthcare system. It has been set up in 2015 as part of the "Versorgungsstärkungsgesetz" (a law concerning the enhancement of healthcare provision) of the German statutory health insurance (GKV). The law required the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) to foster new types of care and research on healthcare provision. 62 projects were chosen for the innovation fund out of 600 submitted project proposals, which means that Bremen University's success accounts for almost 10 percent of all funded projects.

For the next three years, the grants will allow scientists from Bremen to conduct research on the question which new types of care are advisable to achieve an improvement in the statutory healthcare system for the good of all patients and those affected. The projects receiving funds are on topics from safe pharmacotherapy for pregnant women to preventing a stay in a care home for the elderly. The research projects will be carried out by the SOCIUM – Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy, the IPP (Institute for Public Health) at the University of Bremen as well as the Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS GmbH), cooperation partner of the University of Bremen as part of the U Bremen Research Alliance. /LT

## Alumni on Bremen's Party Tram

By means of 329 vehicles – among them the most cutting-edge trams and buses – Bremer Straßenbahn AG (BSAG) ensures mobility in Bremen every day. On March 14, 2017, members of the alumni associati-



In the workshop of the BSAG

@Tristan Vankann

on are given the opportunity to get to know the company away from everyday use. Our member and transport planner at BSAG, Michael Rode, will welcome us at the main entrance of the administrati-

on building (Verwaltungsgebäude) at 5:50 p.m. Subsequently, the alumni will receive insights into the work and the projects of BSAG. After taking the 'party tram' to Lilienthal and back, we will visit the main and service workshops in Bremen Neustadt. There will be bread rolls with different toppings, pretzels, and cold drinks on the trip to Lilienthal. As always, the get-together allows for conversation with the other participants. The event is expected to end at 9 p.m. Please note that the number of participants is limited to twenty people.

Registration is now open on our [website](#). We are looking forward to your participation! /WB



Alumnus Wang Jian

## Chinese Alumnus Visits University of Bremen

After having studied at the University of Bremen from 2001 to 2003, Chinese alumnus Wang Jian returned for a short visit at the end of last year. He invited us to accompany him for an afternoon and shared some of his memories and experiences with us. You can find a video of the day in his second home Bremen [here](#). If you are interested, please take him up on his offer to contact the alumni in Beijing – to exchange experiences, network, and much more. /LT

Contact: [alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de)

## Lichtenberg Professor To Join the University of Bremen

Application the other way around. Computer Scientist Johannes Schöning receives a Lichtenberg Professorship by the Volkswagen-Stiftung. The foundation's jury selects excellent young researchers wanting to conduct research independently in innovative and interdisciplinary areas and finances a professorship at a German university for them. What is special about it is that the awardee can start the professorship at a university of her or his choice. Schöning chose the University of Bremen. "I picked the University of Bremen because outstanding scientists conduct excellent research there," Schöning explains. His scientific



Computer scientist Johannes Schöning

@private

work at the University of Bremen in the Department of Mathematics/Computer Science is funded by more than 1.4 million Euro over the next five years. Subject of his research is the interaction between humans and technology, i.e. the interface between human and machine, geoinformatics, and ubiquitous computing (also known as pervasive computing). This applies, for example, to smartwatches. As his guiding principle he states: "The technology we build should widen and improve human capabilities, not replace them." /LT

**NEW!NEW!NEW!**

## Career Prospects with Alumni e.V.

In February 2017, a new workshop series begins called 'Alumni macht Karriere' (vaguely: climbing the career ladder with Alumni). We will present all aspects around the topic of careers in order to give our members the opportunity to continue educating themselves within the context of their professional development and to come into closer contact with each other. The seminars of and for the alumni of the University of Bremen will take place four to six times per year – each on a Saturday and at a central location. The offers cover a broad spectrum and are addressed to both young alumni (with issues concerning their career start) and professionally experi-

enced alumni (with issues such as professional change). We strongly encourage participation in our workshops as they are offered at a comparatively low price.

The series starts out on February 18 with the workshop 'In the middle of life: find new horizons or carry on?' organized by our member Rolf Herzog, managing partner at EMB GmbH (European Mediator and Consultant Institute). The workshop focuses on issues about changing into a new job.

The next workshop will take place in April on the topic of 'Individual Personality Coaching'. In the seminar held by Michael Blochberger from CIT – Institute

for Corporate Identity & Team Development, participants will receive feedback on their outer appearance, demeanor, and posture as well as an individual coaching on self-presentation.

We will upload selected contents of the workshop onto our website afterwards for all those who cannot participate.

The number of participants is limited to twenty. **The workshop 'Individual Personality Coaching' will take place on April 8, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Teerhof Guest House of the University of Bremen.** The participation fee is 40 Euro. Please register via our [website](#).

/WB

## In Bremergy's Workshop



Fabian Hensel showing us Bremergy's Workshop

In the middle of the preparation phase for this year's race in the 'Formula Student Germany' (FSG) in Hockenheim, our alumni staff was allowed to be a fly on the wall in the workshop of student-organized racing club 'Bremergy'. Bremergy began development of its first race car only in 2012 – today, the interdisciplinary team counts more than 75 members from different degree courses such as Production Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Business Studies, Computer Science, and many more. Everyone weighs in with the knowledge they have acquired in their studies and their individual capabilities. In addition to the team management of five people, there are three departments. The business department has subdivisions such as controlling, marketing, human resources, and IT. The electronic department consists of the subdivisions accumulator, embedded intelligence, and powertrain. Members of the mechanic department are in charge of the subdivisions chassis, suspension, or aerodynamics. They make up a diverse crew – at full speed towards their future careers.



Group is working on cooling the electrical components

### The BreMo 17

Fabian Hensel, project manager for electric development, is doing his bachelor degree in Electrical and Information Engineering with Management at the University of Bremen and gave us an introduction to Bremergy's current projects. All their energy is currently going into the advancement of the new race car 'BreMo 17', in order to be optimally prepared for the best-known student competition in this area in the world. 'According to the rulebook, a Formula Student vehicle has to be created new each year. That can only be done if all members work hard on the project. The vehicles have great power and, thus, have to be stable and safe. At the same time, however, they have to be light, so there's always room for improvement,' Hensel explains. Only 35 teams can enter the competition in the category 'Electric Vehicles' although there are at least twice as many applicants. To qualify for it, each team has to take a quiz and answer the ten questions in as little time as possible. This year, it took Bremergy 10 minutes and 30 seconds. From minute 14 onwards,

they would not have been able to qualify for the competition. In addition to that, they are the first team on the waiting list for the competition in the 'Driverless' category, which is newly implemented this year. "It would give us the opportunity to start into a new com

petition very early on, so we are very eager to do that considering the competencies the university has in this field," says Hensel.

Although the 3,000 Euro in prize money awarded to the winner of the FSG constitutes a relatively small sum, a victory or finishing in one of the higher places could attract particularly appealing sponsors and valuable contacts from the automotive industry. Bremergy is dependent on these sponsors as it currently has to get by on a relatively tight budget of 130,000 Euro. In comparison, the team from Munich has a 900,000 Euro budget.



### A colorful mix of students

All students work on the collective racing project voluntarily in addition to their studies. They meet almost daily in order to continue improving the electric vehicle – be it in the development office in the IW3 building, in the workshop, which is located in the building of the university depot, or in the electrical lab in the NW1 building of department 1, Physics and Electrical Engineering. The biggest challenge is that most members are only active for two or three seasons, which gives a comprehensible and well-documented knowledge transfer the highest priority. It is therefore that the team has to work more elaborately on standardizations and structures to facilitate orientation for new members. "The team's success depends on its members. We have a great team at the moment, so we have a chance for success this season," Fabian Hensel explains.

Bremergy employs a noteworthy number of women – in the business department there are even more female than male team members. Additionally, they are also well-positioned internationally. Two Canadian exchange students

from one of Bremen University's partner schools, the University of Alberta, will be supporting Bremergy in the upcoming months. Hensel: "Roberto was so enthusiastically motivated in the first few days that he wanted to continue tinkering around on the car even while we were waiting for our pizza to be delivered!"

/WB

### Our candidate – the „BreMo 17“

- Acceleration: 0 - 100 km/h: app. 4.5 s
- Top speed: 130 km/h
- Weight: 235 kg
- Material: Carbon fibers, steel, aluminum, rubber, chemicals (battery)



## Focus on Diversity: News

The Academic Senate will be presented with a new, refined diversity strategy in February 2017.

Yet, what does 'diversity' or 'diversity management' stand for at the University of Bremen? The term 'diversity' describes a conscious, political interaction with the existent variety within the members of the university. This variety is characterized in various dimensions such as gender, sexual identity, ethnic or social background, educational background, first language or language of origin, religion or philosophy of life, age, and disability or chronic illness.

One of its aims is to better recognize a multitude of individual potential and develop it to the benefit of the person as well as the institution, and thus enhance innovation and creativity in research and teaching as well. The other aspect is to assume the responsibility of a university in contributing to educational justice and to do so to the best of its abilities. Therefore, one of the essential components is the development of an accessible campus free of discrimination.

The core element of the new diversity strategy constitutes seven guiding principles. They contain, for instance, that from now on 'diversity' has to be conveyed much more strongly in research and teaching contents than before. Knowing about how to competently deal with diversity is an essential educational goal within the context of a global knowledge society.

Those who experience appreciation for their individual potential within the framework of their

studies will turn out to be employees and future employers who are much more respectful and appreciative in the interaction with others and recognize and support their potential as well. In addition to that, the best employees are not merely interested in their salary – bright minds seek an inspiring, positive atmosphere that appreciates and promotes diversity, in which they can fully realize their own potential. This is also true for (future) scientists at our university. Diverse teams additionally achieve better results, for example the quality of research findings improves because it can be created and communicated by taking into account most diverse perspectives.

The central question of how we can promote establishing an all-embracing inclusive framework and code of conduct at universities additionally to compensatory measures was discussed this past winter semester under the title 'University dis/abled? – How universities accommodate people with disabilities' as part of the event series „Diversity @ Bremen University – excellent and allowing for equal opportunities?!“ – for example in regard to the promotion of young scientists with disabilities or concerning efforts to become a university accommodating people who are hearing-impaired, which advances the quality of working and learning for everybody. If you are interested in reading about concrete and practice-oriented examples, you can find further information at [www.uni-bremen.de/diversity](http://www.uni-bremen.de/diversity).

/IO

## Great Interest in the University of Bremen

The University of Bremen Information Day organized by our Research Ambassador Kolyang, professor at the University of Maroua in northern Cameroon, was very well received. Since last year, professor Kolyang has not only been active as an ambassador for Bremen; as an advisor to the rector of the University of Maroua, he has also been in charge of furthering international contacts. In November, he already organized an information day, which more than 300 students attended in addition to several doctoral candidates as well as lecturers from other universities in the area. Participation by Bremen alumni who now work at the partner university in Ngaoundéré showed how well the Cameroonian universities are connected with each other. Those present were able to attend different talks allowing them to gather information on the University of Bremen in general as well as on studying and doing a PhD in Germany. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) was present as

well and gave advice on financing options and scholarships. Additionally, students of German studies enriched the event with theater and song performances as well as readings.

The event was an indication of how great the interest is in Cameroon in studying in Germany or doing a PhD there, and it additionally showed how important our alumni are in advising students and sharing with them their own



Club singing a german song

experiences. Having the outstanding personality of a Research Ambassador present there is particularly important in facilitating such an experience.

We are looking forward to receiving feedback from alumni who are also interested in organizing information sessions on studying in Bremen. We are happy to support such commitment. /IO

## Trip to Namibia Scheduled

For many years, the University of Bremen has been maintaining a partnership with the University of Namibia. Interest in this cooperation is increasingly growing again, which is why a delegation under the leadership of Vice President Prof. Dr. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu will travel there at the end of March. We are looking forward to hearing back from alumni in Namibia who would be interested in meeting us during the trip. /IO Please contact us at [lang@uni-bremen.de](mailto:lang@uni-bremen.de)

### Shorthand symbol:

Linh Truong  
 WaB:  
 Wiebke Bolle  
 IO:  
 International Office  
 MB:  
 Manuela  
 Brocksieper

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

### About:

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