



Dear Alumni,

The Alumni Association of the University of Bremen is turning 20 – and we would love to celebrate this milestone together with you.

Over the past two decades, countless encounters, memories, projects, and personal journeys have emerged. It is precisely this diversity that defines our association. That's why we warmly invite you to be part of our anniversary year. We would like to ask you:

What does the Alumni Association of the University of Bremen mean to you personally?

This could be, for example:

- A special moment or memorable encounter
- A sentence about why you are a member of the association
- Or a wish for the next 20 years

Whether it's a short text (2–5 sentences), a quote, or an old (e.g., from 2006) or recent photo – everything is welcome. Selected contributions will be published during the anniversary year in our newsletter and on our social media channels. If necessary, we may contact you again to request a photo or to finalize the text together.

Please send your contributions to: alumni@vw.uni-bremen.de

In addition, several opportunities for meeting and exchange are planned during the anniversary year. We will inform you of specific dates and formats in advance via our newsletter and separate invitations.

Thank you for being part of this community – yesterday, today, and in the future.

Warm regards from the office,

Your Alumni Team

ALUMNI-NEWS

**AN ESPRESSO WITH... PROF. DR. KLAUS
EICKEL**



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Anyone who studies, completes a doctorate, or pursues a habilitation at the University of Bremen usually takes away more than just a formal degree. Prof. Dr. Klaus Eickel, Professor of Medical Computing at Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences, is a good example of this. As an alumnus of the University of Bremen, he looks back on his doctoral years in an interview, talks about formative encounters, the networks that have grown over time, and explains why the Bremen location continues to captivate him to this day.

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GRADUATION CEREMONY – NURSING SCIENCE

On February 3, the graduates of the Nursing Science program celebrated their graduation in Lecture Hall GW1. The program has been offered in Bremen for around 30 years and has since made an important contribution to academic qualification in a socially indispensable professional field.

Around 30 guests attended the ceremony, including faculty members, relatives, and a representative of the Bremen Senator for Health. Alumni Board member Renate Heitmänn delivered a greeting on behalf of the board. We are very pleased to have once again financially supported this graduation event, highlighting the importance of Nursing Science and its dedicated young professionals.



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ZFLB

An inspiring afternoon in the Olbers Hall: Under the title “Transfer and Research in Teacher Education,” among others, the recipients of the 2025 Sponsorship Award presented their award-winning theses and made clear how practice-oriented and relevant teacher education research at the University of Bremen is.

As Alumni of the University of Bremen e.V., we are pleased that, together with unifreunde Bremen e.V., we were once again able to make this award possible and thus support outstanding achievements in teacher education – also supported by Departments 10 and 12.

Prizewinner Marie Bothmer showed why comma didactics deserves more attention in the classroom and how intuition and syntax can be meaningfully combined. Annica Schönfeld, also a prizewinner, focused on children’s conceptions of technology and computer science

using the microcontroller Calliope Mini as an example – a topic of great relevance in light of students' early digital experiences.

We warmly congratulate the prizewinners.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



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16. CONRAD-NABER LECTURE

unifreunde e.V. & Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. invite you to the 16th Conrad Naber Lecture
Exploring “The Martian Mindset” – The Mars Perspective
(Cluster of Excellence, University of Bremen)

Even if Mars is potentially habitable, it is extremely inhospitable: there are no fossil fuels, temperatures range between -150 and +30 degrees Celsius, and there is only a thin CO₂ atmosphere. These extreme conditions provide the framework for developing the “Martian Mindset” – a new paradigm of sustainability in which material extraction, processing, and the production of components are fundamentally reimagined.

The dimensions of scarcity considered in this approach are also well known to us on Earth: natural resources, electrical energy, labor, and information. The research findings of the Cluster will therefore not only enable sustainable space exploration, but also drive the green transformation here on Earth.

Please send your confirmation by 20 February 2026 to: folkerts@unifreun.

[more](#)

EVENT SUMMARIES



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ALUMNI NETWORKING AT THE WILHELM WAGENFELD HOUSE

The Alumni Association of the University of Bremen visited the Wilhelm Wagenfeld House. Director Dr. Julia Bulk guided around 20 participants through the exhibition “Focke Meets Wagenfeld”, offering expert insights. The focus was on everyday design and its significance for culture, heritage, and the way we see the world. The evening sparked inspiring conversations in a place that embodies design and zeitgeist in Bremen. Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Julia Bulk, the team of the Wilhelm Wagenfeld House, and Dr. Katerina Vatsella.

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AN ALUMNI TALK WITH DR. SIMON JUNGBLUT

As part of the collaboration with the Deutschlandstipendium at the University of Bremen, a particularly inspiring alumni talk took place under the label “Bremen Connect”, once again demonstrating the value of active exchange within the alumni network.

We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Simon Jungblut for his open and personal insights into his scientific career path, as well as for the valuable impulses he shared. Our heartfelt thanks also go to ProMentes – Profession / Mentoring / Networks – and to all the committed participants who enriched the discussion with their questions and perspectives.

CAMPUS NEWS



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INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

As part of the GOLDENE PLIETSCH Projects 2026, ten projects from research, teaching, and campus operations were recognized on 28 January 2026 for making an important contribution to the University of Bremen’s sustainability, climate protection, and climate justice strategy.

The selected projects received a total of over €26,000 in funding, enabling them to implement their ideas. We thank all participating teams for their great commitment and warmly congratulate the ten award-winning projects.

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BREMEN KIDS' UNIVERSITY

Discover and understand the world: Science and research are really exciting, and children will be able to experience this first-hand at the Bremen Kids' University. In the lectures and workshops on offer, researchers from the University of Bremen explain in a vivid way what they find so exciting about their subject area.

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PROMENTES

With ProMentes, the career-oriented mentoring program at the University of Bremen, alumni can support motivated students, graduates, and doctoral candidates on their path into professional practice beyond the university. As a mentor, you share your experience, provide guidance, open up new perspectives, and at the same time get to know a new generation of highly motivated young professionals.

Many former mentees report that ProMentes was a crucial step in their successful career entry. The program thrives especially on people who feel connected to the University of Bremen and are eager to give something back.

The application period for the 2026/2027 cycle ends on April 12, 2026.

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INTERNATIONAL



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LANGUAGE CONTACT INSTEAD OF LANGUAGE LOSS

When Nicole Hober records conversations in Mopan Maya in southern Belize, she is particularly interested in how multilingualism is lived in everyday life and how speakers assess the contact between Mopan Maya, English, and Creole. The focus is not only on language practice and

code-switching but also on the concern many people have that their indigenous language may lose its independence due to external influences. Hober's research shows how closely language use, history, and colonial experiences are interconnected.

[more](#)

NEWSFLASH



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CALL FOR CAMPUS RADIO ALUMNI

Thirteen years ago, the "Campus Radio" aired for the last time. The program, broadcast from 1994 to 2013, was organized by students from the Universities of Bremen and Oldenburg together with Radio Bremen. For an up-to-date article, we are now looking for former participants who were involved with "Campus Radio" during that time and would like to share their experiences.

If you're interested, please contact Lena Wenke at:

lena.wenke@uni-bremen.de



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WORTH KNOWING – ALL ABOUT GOOD TEACHING

WissensWert (WWUB) is a central platform at the University of Bremen that makes good teaching visible. It brings together materials, experiences, and support offerings related to contemporary teaching and learning – aligned with the University's mission statement.

WissensWert was developed within the SKILL project in collaboration with several university departments. The project was funded from 2021 to 2025 by the Foundation for Innovation in Higher Education and strengthens digital and student-centered higher education at the University of Bremen.

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COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

The University of Bremen is expanding its contacts with Eastern Europe: As part of the German Academic Exchange Service's (DAAD) Eastern Partnership Program, it will be cooperating with eight universities in Georgia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Armenia over the next three years.

[more](#)



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UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN AND AWI

In 2025, the University of Bremen and the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) secured extensive datasets from the USA. Now, the DFG has approved around 860,000 euros in funding to systematically identify endangered data and safeguard it for the long term, using the PANGAEA data platform as a basis.

[more](#)



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REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Eva-Maria Mendez Montilla has been the university's new Environmental and Climate Protection Manager since early 2025. The engineer's expertise includes environmental assessments and innovation management. Her focus is on reducing the university's CO2 emissions to support Bremen's goal of becoming a climate-neutral city by 2038.

[more](#)

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