

EDITORIAL



Dear Alumni of the
University of Bremen,

The days are starting to get longer and the temperatures are rising – time for an update from us. In this newsletter, we report on the construction plans on campus among other topics, while in our interview, our member Renate Heitmann, executive board member at bremer shakespeare company, will answer the “six questions” segment. We are very happy for the university to have reached rank 41 in the most recent Times Higher Education Ranking of the best young universities in the world.

I very much hope to meet many of you at our – by now almost traditional – summer fête on June 16, 2017, or on the following day at the OPEN CAMPUS of the university.

Warmest regards from the alumni office,



Derk Schönfeld

Our events at a glance!

• 04. May

Discussion between Dr. Joachim Schuster and Volkmar Herr

• 03. June

Workshop: Career Planning

• 16. June

Third Alumni summer fête

• 17. June

OPEN CAMPUS 2017

Bremen University Again Among the Top 50 Young Universities in the World!

Now number 41 in the global ranking of best young universities

The University of Bremen climbed eight spots in the current ranking of the renowned scientific magazine Times Higher Education (THE). Of the 200 best young universities in the world, it reached rank 41 and is, thus, among the top 50 universities internationally. In the Young University Ranking 2017, universities are compared that are at most fifty years old. Seven German universities made it into the top group with Bremen being ranked behind the University of Bayreuth and ahead of the Technical University of Dortmund.

The positive result is due to good teaching and Bremen University's excellent reputation internationally. The annual ranking by the Times Higher Education magazine, which is published in London, is based on thirteen performance indicators in five groups:

- Teaching quality
- Research
- Citations, i.e. research influence
- International Outlook
- Interaction with businesses



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Therefore, the University of Bremen is outstanding both in terms of quality and external connections – an encouraging result and a positive direction. /MB

Sponsorship of B-Human robots



The B-Human robots of the University of Bremen will again start into the new season with a joyful alumni logo as we are again sponsors of the successful robots.

Team 'B-Human' is born of a partnership between the research center 'Cyber Physical Systems' of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) and the Computer Science Department of the University of Bremen. The team plays in the Standard Platform League within the RoboCup, the championship in robot soccer. RoboCup is an international initiative that fosters research in artificial intelligence and robotics – and what's more: it is highly successful!

Therefore, we are excited to be a part of it once more, when we perhaps will again win the world cup – like in 2016. /MB



6 Questions For...

In each newsletter, we ask one of our members six questions about their time in Bremen. For this issue, we interviewed **Renate Heitmann**, executive board member and organizer at bremer shakespeare company. Would you like to appear in this section? Then please contact Petra Morschheuser at 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.



Renate Heitmann

© Christina Collao

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

I studied Cultural Studies as well as English and American Studies from 1987 to 1991. Already then I came to understand that there seemed to be no way around Shakespeare. However, I only graduated later, at the end of the 90s. Before that, I spent time abroad in the United States and worked as a production assistant for the San Francisco Mime Troupe. I organized their performances in Germany at the end of the 80s. In collaboration with the project 'Shakespeare in Asia', I was able to combine my master's thesis with my job at bremer shakespeare company and was able to draw on my work experiences in carrying it out.

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

My most important memory is the active involvement in different co-determination models. Being able to contribute as a student was always important to me. The chance to speak out and profoundly shape those highly political times as a participant in the self-governed bodies of the university – that was what was important to me. I had been politically active before (laughs). One day, we even started joint actions against the peeping toms in the women's bathrooms by writing on doors and so on. Everybody was active. It was

an interesting and exciting time. I finished my Abitur in night classes and – after a fairly boring job – thus really enjoyed the great freedom of being a student.

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

There is particularly one name that comes to mind: Professor Dieter Herms, my lecturer for American Studies. He managed to turn Shakespeare from something mandatory into a real passion. Dieter Herms already then incorporated popular forms of theater into his teaching. I was a student assistant and was able to gain my initial experience internationally in the framework of an internship abroad during a tour for American theater. Looking back, my career seems to have been laid out ideally. Everything makes sense looking back, even if it is not always clearly perceivable while you are experiencing it.

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

Enjoy and live the moment, the great freedom. I always hear that studying has become rather institutionalized – but: you have to try yourself out. My degree was very project oriented. I could surely 'run free' more easily. Yet even in

today's structures you can enjoy the freedom given to you. Make the most of it!

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

From personal experience as well as from others I know that studying opens the possibility of gaining a wealth of experiences. That is what studying at the University of Bremen meant for

me, albeit before digitalization and with more notices on paper. We surely had more to work out for ourselves, which is now much easier done online. Bremen University had and has great, charismatic lecturers. Until today, I am linked to many of my former fellow students through a network of interests and professional connections. I have a strong emotional bond to the university.

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..."

I became a member only recently, when the alumni visited the bremer shakespeare company and came to the theater. The network is a new discovery for me.

Show Us YOUR Face!

Our campaign The university in search for its alumni advertises the encouraging and versatile work of our alumni. We are still looking for faces of our alumni for an ad and posters. Profess to the university and show yourself as a part of our network!

If you would like 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 will be one of three lucky participants to win a surprise package! Show your commitment and show us your face!

Photos to: alumni@uni-bremen.de



DIE UNI BREMEN SUCHT IHRE ALUMNI

Campaign of OPEN CAMPUS 2015

Bremen on the Move – with BSAG

This is the motto that also moved Bremen University's alumni on March 14. The 'Partitour' attracted many members to participate in a visit to the long-standing company in Bremen. At the invitation of Michael Rode (transport planner at BSAG and alumnus of the University of Bremen), the group first received an insight into the company. Jens-Christian Meyer, spokesperson of BSAG, presented interesting figures and facts in an entertaining talk. Michael Rode described his career – at university and at BSAG – and was able to join the tour together with head of the planning department Volker Arndt. The party tram went from the Neustadt to Bremen-Mahndorf and provided ample time for conversations, networking, and planning. New ideas were born, and current plans of Bremer Straßenbahn AG were discussed. From horse-drawn tramways to today's and the future's electro mobility, the company has been organizing the transport of

now up to 300,000 people daily since 1876. Holding 99.11 percent, the municipality of Bremen is almost the only shareholder. Because which entrepreneur nowadays can offer assurances for 22.5 years into the future? Bremen provides security for staff members and draws up ambitious plans for the future of the company. No matter if it is about trams, buses, mini-bus tours in the city center, or the design of new transportation hubs, tram or bus stops, or connecting new districts – urban development is supported actively and in a modern fashion. To accomplish that, professional servicing, maintenance,



In the workshop of the BSAG

refurbishing, and a service workshop are necessary, the latter of which our alumni also toured with interest and excitement. Mr. Rode and the technically competent staff members on duty answered all questions on the many different individual trades that are under the same roof at Flughafendamm. With a shop for everything from the upholstery to the paint shop, BSAG can completely maintain and equip its vehicles. The trams itself are bought ready-made and are then equipped with the city-typical features (color, front, etc.). The interior design is selected by a panel of guests and people with disabilities, so that everything works out and every passenger can be transported optimally as well as safely. Being on tour with the alumni of the University of Bremen has, once more, moved us and has additionally given us exciting insights into the heart of the mobility of our city. /MB



Partitour with the BSAG

The Chance of Self-Discovery

For our second career seminar 'Individual Personality Coaching', held by Dipl.-Ing. Michael Blochberger, we gathered at the Teerhof Guest House of the University of Bremen on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Mr. Blochberger is considered a proven expert in the field of personality coaching and team building. Among his clients are, for example, Deutsche Telekom and REWE Markt GmbH.

Fourteen alumni from many different fields participated in the workshop, which started out slowly with coffee and cookies as well as a round of introductions. The seminar began with all participants agreeing to profess confidentiality, openness and respectful interactions with and among each other, allowing for the discussion of private and

personal issues. Initially, the participants received an insight into the human brain and its function. It was explained that we are heavily influenced by certain experiences, which later may inhibit our everyday life. Mr. Blochberger's aim was "to give people the chance to identify what is right for them and not what were trained to think is right." Alongside many conversations, we participants engaged in hands-on activities as well: from visualizations in form of games to team activities, in which we could test the limits of our trust towards others. By means of a personality test, our less distinct characteristics were pointed

out, and together we came up with tips and ways of strengthening these areas explicitly. The different results evoked sheer amazement. "I would have never thought that this is not a distinct feature for me! I had assessed myself completely differently," said one participant. At the end of the seminar, everyone had obtained an insight into their own mind and had received valuable advice on either finding their respective future paths or taking the courage to take the next steps towards them. /LT



Seminar leader Michael Blochberger



Participants of the workshop

Third Alumni Summer Fête 2017

We would like to meet all alumni again this year for our collective summer fête on campus. It will take place in the outdoor area of Café Unique (Enrique-Schmidt-Straße) on **June 16, 2017, starting at 6 p.m.**, and will have live music and plenty of time for connecting with others. We hope to again enjoy a wonderful and relaxing evening together with delicious grilled foods. There will be ample time for conversation and enjoying what will surely be a wonderful summer's evening. Music will be provided by Paul Kahre, frontman of the band Mojo Working, throughout the event. The very reasonable participation fee of 15.00 Euro includes the grilled goods (with vegetarian options!) and drinks. The event will end at about 10 p.m. We were able to win team neusta as a sponsor again this year and are very excited that the corporate group from Bremen again actively supports our summer fête. New this year as sponsor will be Bremer Aufbau-Bank (BAB) – a development bank for Bremen and Bremerhaven. We would like to extend our most heartfelt gratitude to them! You can catch a glimpse of last year's Alumni Summer Fête [here](#). It will be a wonderful, vibrant, and homely event – so register right away!

NOTICE: Please feel free to bring your partner or guest to our event. Costs are 15.00 Euro per person. Please register via our [Website](#) an. /MB



From the archiv: Second Summer Fête

Discussion on International Politics and Trade

We invite you to an exciting discussion on **May 4, 2017**, with Dr. Joachim Schuster, Member of the European Parliament and alumnus of the University of Bremen, and Volkmar Herr, International Managing Director at the Bremen Chamber of Commerce. In the debate led by Prof. Klaus Schlichte from the Institute for Intercultural and International Studies (InIIS) at the University of Bremen, Dr. Schuster and Mr. Herr will discuss current trade issues and international collaboration with each other and with us.

After the discussion, you can deepen the conversation and make new contacts during the get-together at the restaurant 'Ständige Vertretung' in nearby Böttcherstraße.

The event takes place on **Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 7 p.m., at the Bremen Chamber of Commerce.**

NOTICE: Participation is free of charge and limited to a maximum of 30 people.

Please register via our [Website](#) an. /MB

Anticipation is rising: OPEN CAMPUS 2017



OPEN CAMPUS 2015

© Kai Uwe Bohn/Uni Bremen

On **June 17**, the long-awaited OPEN CAMPUS of the University of Bremen will take place again. Under the slogan '**OPENING WORLDS – SHARING KNOWLEDGE**' the festival will start at 2 p.m. As in 2013 and 2015, the campus park will be vibrant with life, and departments, institutes, international communities, as well as service and counseling institutions

will give an insight into their work. There will again be a broad range of exciting activities on the agenda this year: you can tour the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology and the German Aerospace Center (DLR), listen to fascinating talks by the Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM) and the bremer shakespeare company, and much more. There will also be a multifaceted stage program in the afternoon: music performances by several bands, international dance performances, and science shows for children – something for everyone! Additionally, at this year's OPEN CAMPUS a poetry slam will make all poets' hearts leap with joy. We are honored that **Samy Deluxe** will perform as the top musical act at the end of the day. You do not want to miss this – so stop by and join in! /LT

Next Event: Career Planning on June 3

Increasing enrollment in study program for senior citizens

Hot off the press, the course directory for senior citizens immediately drew in numerous users. And adult education is on the rise: Many people seize the opportunity of further educating themselves when they are older.

Did you know? Members of the Alumni Association receive a discount on all offerings from the Akademie für Weiterbildung (Academy for Further Education).



Michael Blochberger

Those interested in a workshop with Mr. Michael Blochberger should mark **June 3** on their calendars. His next workshop aims at becoming aware of one's own abilities as well as one's professional and private goals and needs in order to flesh out one's own career goals. In the afternoon, participants will have the chance to question their current situation, experiences, and attitude. This will help with detecting dependencies and necessary resources as well as with being able to plan concrete career steps. Please follow this [link](#) for more information and for registration details. /LT

Research Ambassadors at the University of Bremen

Bremen University is truly living the Hanseatic spirit by sending researchers into the world and thus staying in touch: directly, worldly, pragmatically, as well as in all openness and friendly loyalty. Therein lies the great Hanseatic tradition. And this is also why the university has ambassadors today to maintain close partnerships, for exchange and as networkers around the world. Everybody who has worked or studied at or otherwise collaborated with the university or its affiliated institutes is eligible for the post as Research Ambassador.

Different career stages are taken into account as well. The most important aspect is the close emotional connection to and deep knowledge of the University of Bremen as well as the state and the region.

It is an alliance that implements new research networks, collectively develops and realizes new research strategies, and strengthens the exchange with internati-

onal alumni – global connections that go well with Bremen.

Therefore, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the University of Bremen, and Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. paved the way for their collective researcher alumni strategy. The University of Bremen provides its Research Ambassadors support in a very practical and direct manner regarding various different issues:

- the annual possibility for each Research Ambassador of returning to Bremen (covering costs for travel and lodging), e.g. within the framework of the annual alumni networking event or for research purposes
- “Senior brings Junior”: the possibility of sending a young/junior researcher on a research stay in Bremen (covering costs for travel and lodging)
- financing a research internship for graduate students
- financial and ideational support for the establishment of an alumni network in

their respective home country or country of residence

- the possibility of participating in various events at the University of Bremen
 - support for public relations: being appointed Research Ambassador goes hand in hand with receiving support for public relations, e.g. press releases, interviews to the local press, informing the scientific community about the DAAD and GAIN newsletters, and sending informational mailings through the appropriate channels
- That way, the ambassadors do not only have the opportunity to return to Bremen, send their own students here, and collaborate in collective research projects; they can also lead regional alumni groups abroad and, thus, perpetuate the snowball effect of active alumni work – all while being supported by their alma mater.

Ambassadors of the University of Bremen – conviction in practice.

/MB



From left to right: Prof. Dr. Frank Wilderson, Prof. Dr.-Ing Enzo Morosini Frazzon, Prof. Dr. Yanbing Mao, Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Kolyang (@ International Office), Dr. Alejandra Castro-Carranza, Prof. Dr. Krishnendu Chakrabarty (@ privat), Prof. Dr. Edward McPhail (@ Dickinson College)

Logic, Mathematics, and a Marital Crisis...

A computer science professor of the University of Bremen explains amateurs the language spoken by computers

This is, according to Rolf Drechsler, something that only works with a lot of humor. Complex issues are made wonderfully clear on the 125 pages of his entertaining book.

He vividly explains technology, illustrated with humorous examples, cartoons, and various QR codes. He uses a language that is easily understandable and caters to the genre of infotainment in an entertaining manner.

Professor Drechsler, who is the head of the Group of Computer Architecture at the University of Bremen,

was ably supported in his endeavor by Andrea Fink (from the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence) and Jannis Stoppe (who just finished his doctoral thesis on computer architecture).

We are surrounded by computers even if we cannot see them sometimes. Usually using them requires as little as pressing the right buttons or swiping across a screen. Yet, how do computers actually work? What goes on behind the screen while we ask our indispensable devices for the weather or directions,

or while we keep in touch with others, look at recipes, measure our steps or our blood

pressure, and much more?

The work ‘Computer – wie funktionieren Smartphone, Tablet & Co?’ (‘Computers – how do smartphone, tablet, etc. work?’), which has just been published by Springer publishing company, gives a step-by-step explanation on how computers operate. Thanks to its beautifully drawn black-and-white illustrations and its overall modern concept, this computer booklet is truly a must-have. It is a refreshingly different product of popular science brought to you by the University of Bremen.

Professor Drechsler closes his book with an outlook on his research activities as well as those of his team. He explains computer architecture and reveals something about quantum computers, the computers of the future.

If you would like to order a copy, you can find it [here](#). /MB



Minecraft on the university campus...



Aerial view of campus 1977

The many construction sites on campus are more than obvious. Something is going on in Bremen! Quite a lot, in fact. The alumni staff insisted on asking Hans-Joachim Orlok (Head of the Property Management and Building Department) for a phone interview.

One of the building projects is the **dormitory on the university 'boulevard'** undergoing a complete renovation – it is, after all, a building from the early years of the university, making it forty years old. Not only the façade is being replaced – the inside is being refurbished as well. Industrial climbers have been carefully working on and looking for damages in the outer shell; the tenants moved out or have been relocated – now the renovation can start. In order to do so, a small portion of the boulevard has been closed off, resulting in some small detours for passers-by. Nevertheless, once construction has been completed, the university's first student dormitory will shine in a new light and be a home for many more students to come.

A much bigger and more obvious construction site,



Herr Hans-Joachim Orlok in seinem Büro

however, is situated between the spur route Autobahnzubringer Universität and the Universitätsallee ('Uni Südwest'). This is where the Aldi real estate management is building a supermarket with a parking garage and office spaces on the upper floors as well as another building that combines office facilities upstairs with retail spaces on the ground floor. There had been a national tender which Aldi won – now, many university staff members, students, and people working in the technology park will be able to enjoy the new infrastructure.



Aerial view of campus 1980

One of the specifications was to not realize a typical Aldi store but instead to adapt the new building to its surroundings. The parking garage will be administered, meaning that it will offer additional parking at the going rates.

The buildings **GW 1 and NW 1** will also be newly renovated. Having been built in 1972, like the dorm on the boulevard they were among the first buildings of the university and are now undergoing their first renovation. Artificial mineral fibers are taken out, and contamination due to PCB will be eliminated within three years. These works are carried out floor by floor, or rather, half-floor by half-floor, in order to keep the inconveniences at a minimum and to allow for continued university use. A brand-new technique – which formally meets the requirements already by sealing the grout joints – is only the beginning of the renovations. According to a resolution of the Bremen government, the harmful substances will actually eventually be removed and not just covered up. That means patience is required on this part of campus as well.

In the **MZH**, the inside surfaces are adjusted to meet with the current usage requirements floor by floor. Additionally, fire protection will be overhauled over the coming two years as well.

Another project is a **new dormitory** at Emmy-Noether-Straße. Situated directly opposite the new construction site along the spur route to the Autobahn, three new buildings will be erected in order to reduce the existing shortage of dorm rooms in Bremen and to offer students affordable housing.

Also at Emmy-Noether-Straße, a new building for the **Fraunhofer Institute ME-**



Aerial view of campus 2010

VIS will be put up. The renowned institute has been renting their premises from the OHB System AG for many years. Therefore, their own building behind the Cartesium is planned.

Furthermore, the **biology** department will receive a new building, which will be located at the corner of James-Watt-Straße and Leobener Straße. The state of Bremen has invited tenders for the 40-million-Euro edifice. The construction period of the building, which is meant to replace the old NW 2, will be from 2018 to 2020. Due to new functional requirements (especially for molecular biology), cleanrooms and special laboratories will be included in the new building. The next step is to do profitability calculations, before the building, which will be constructed with the help from specialist planners, will finally complete the campus picture.

According to a senate resolution, the hotly debated topic of the **university pool** has now been changed into plans for a new building that is to be erected at the pool in Bremen-Horn. Commissioner of the construction will be the Bremer Bädergesellschaft. According to internal ideas, the then free space of the university pool could be used, for example, as the main auditorium or as a centralized equipment storage (possibly for time-sharing use) – an attractive idea for the DFG.

Many projects – various plans – invigorating expansions – yet, the renovation backlog continues to exist. The university campus requires many large investments for future tasks. Excellent results require excellent commitment. The university is, therefore, on a good and steady path.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Orlok for the exciting insights on the current changes on campus. We will monitor the progress in order to inform our alumni here and around the world on what is happening on their old campus. /MB

Traveling 8448 km for Dialogue. A Trip to Namibia.

As had been announced in the previous newsletter, a large delegation of the University of Bremen traveled to Namibia under the leadership of Vice President Yasemin Karakaşoğlu between March 25 and April 3 of this year. The university has had a cooperation with the University of Namibia (UNAM) for over twenty years. The partnership was originally based on activities by Bremen law professor Manfred Hinz, who has been maintaining a close connection with Namibia for a long time and who, among other things, established the Faculty of Law at UNAM

and ran it as a dean for some time. It was the goal of the trip to revive and expand the partnership as well as make new contacts at the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST).



Our delegation

© Simon Namesha, UNAM

The major subjects in this cooperation are in the fields of biology and marine sciences, computer sciences, research in language teaching and learning, teacher training, economics, and health sciences. In accordance with that, schools were visited and meetings had been scheduled at the embassy, the city administration, and the Goethe Institute.

At UNAM, numerous meetings were held with the departments involved. They took place at the Windhoek location and in Henties Bay (a campus overlooking the coast), home of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department, as well as on the campus of the Faculty of Engineering in the north. In them, future collaborations in research and teaching were discussed thoroughly. The talks were promising, as many common interests in research and teaching as well as many starting points for future projects were detected. The ob-

jectives were met; the chemistry was just right, as they say.

Therefore, the new cooperation agreement was signed at the meeting with the vice chancellor of the University of Namibia (see group picture).

Dr. Regine Komoss, director of the Center for Teacher Training, had traveled to Windhoek before the delegation and had been able to establish a close relationship with the Faculty of Education at UNAM as well as with schools in Windhoek. The delegation

now has negotiated that students studying education in Bremen would be given the possibility to spend their practical semester at the Augustineum Secondary School from 2018 onwards. This is one of the components of a comprehensive concept promoting the internationalization of teacher training in Bremen, which intends to increase the possibilities for internships abroad in general. The dean of the Faculty of Education at UNAM will travel to Bremen on a return visit as early as June.

Similarly, there had been connections for a while to the campus of the marine sciences at Henties Bay, which were revived on this



Delegation visiting the Augustineum

© Petra Schierholz



Delegation in Henties Bay

© Annette Lang

visit. For the time being, agreements have been negotiated on student and doctorate exchange in marine sciences as well as, in the medium-term, the establishment of new degree courses in cooperation with the universities' partners. The interdisciplinary collaboration between the two institutions is especially noteworthy: Anna Förster, a computer scientist in the delegation, was able to immediately propose solutions to the technical problems that the marine scientists had encountered when measuring the water quality in their test basin. Students in electrical engineering at Bremen University will now develop an appropriate sensor network in the framework of their master's theses.

These are only two examples for excellent cooperation between Namibia and the state of Bremen. All colleagues had very precise topics that fit perfectly, leading to a spirit of optimism. The current challenge, therefore, lies – as so often – in finding the financial resources necessary for the implementation of the numerous individual measures.

After this visit, however, one thing has become clear: The University of Bremen has again proven itself as a global player in knowledge transfer. /MB

Contact for further inquiries:

Dr. Annette Lang, lang@uni-bremen.de, 0421/218-60361

Shorthand symbol:

LT:
Linh Truong

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.

Impressum:

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

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