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EDITORIAL

Dear alumni
of the University of Bremen,



the third edition of our newsletter holds the latest news and successes of the University of Bremen. The university succeeded in the competition „Aufstieg durch Bildung“ – „Advance through education“ held by the Länder and the Federation. Social scientists presented their social policies memorandum to Federal President Joachim Gauck. However, we also have less positive news: The „Wissenschaftsplan 2020“, issued by the Bremen Senate and the foundation of education in Bremen, means a ten percent budget cut for the university.

Community bremen e.V. keeps on growing. With 1.250 newly registered alumni we are on our way back to old strength. I'm looking forward to meeting you all in person at our next members' meeting!

With kind regards



Derk H. Schönfeld
Managing Director Community Bremen e.V.

Community Bremen e.V. invites you to a members' meeting

The year 2014 was shaped by changes for the Community Bremen e.V. After the introduction of membership fees for the first time in 2013, the shape of our community has changed. At present, there are 1,250 newly registered members. In order to discuss the development of the community, the managing committee cordially invites you to a members' meeting on the 23rd of October 2014. A new Managing Committee and a new Accountant will be appointed on a voting basis. After the meeting we gladly invite you for a get together at the after work party held by the Technologiepark Uni Bremen e.V. Registered Community Bremen members will receive an official invitation via email.

„Advance through education“ – University of Bremen successful

An immigrant background, employment, parenting or taking care of relatives – more and more students are facing these challenges. In order to cater for these needs, the University of Bremen is working on flexible study programs and further education. The contest „Aufstieg durch Bildung: offene Hochschulen“ – meaning „Advance through Education: Open universities“ – by the Länder and the Federation has granted the University 2.9 million Euro for its successful project proposal.

“With the help of this fund we have the possibility to adjust our study programs didactically and organizationally to the diverse biographies and aims of our students in the future”, says Dr. Petra Boxler, head of the Akademie für Wei-

terbildung, the academy for further education at the University of Bremen, and supervisor of the project. Extra occupational Master programs and Certificates in the fields of Informatics, Production Engineering and Care are being developed as well as further education programs. “These fields are in need of qualified employees, both in the region and nationwide”, explains Petra Boxler. With the help of so-called “modular kits” the new programs will be flexible enough to allow students with very diverse backgrounds to reach their academic goals. This complies with the initiative “Advance through Education”, which aims to raise educational chances for all citizens. The emerging concepts shall be integrated permanently into the University's structures.

6 QUESTIONS FOR ...

In each newsletter we will ask six questions to one alumnus about their time in Bremen.

In this edition we asked Lars Kämmerer to answer.

Would you like to answer our six questions as well? Contact our office at alumni@unibremen.de



Lars Kämmerer has studied sociology in Bremen. He has worked as a PR consultant in one of the eight biggest agencies in Germany. Now he is the owner of his own agency, **Satzbrand Kommunikation**. In this edition of the Alumni newsletter he tells us about his time at the University of Bremen.

1. When did you study at the University of Bremen, and why did you choose Bremen?

I have started studying in Bremen in 2002, including some stays abroad in Venezuela and Spain. I graduated with a diploma from the University of Bremen in 2009. Not only the beautiful city of Bremen with all its cultural benefits but also the exciting curriculum let me choose Bremen over Hamburg and Berlin.

„The University of Bremen is like a good optometrist. It manages to make hidden things visible.“

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

The resistance of the students against the introduction of tuition fees. It reminded me of the fight David versus Goliath.

3. Who or what influenced your career the most?

A number of teachers and professors who do not work at the University of Bremen anymore. They have influenced me in many ways and changed my view on several societal processes. In the end, it was a mélange of lectures, communication with teachers from different disciplines and university life itself that influenced my career.

4. What piece of advice would you give students at the University of Bremen?

I strongly recommend participating in lectures from other disciplines to broaden your horizon. Going abroad should also be on your to-do list.

5. What do you connect with at the University of Bremen? Please complete the sentence: „The University of Bremen is...“

... like a good optometrist. It manages to make hidden things visible.“

6. What does community bremen e.V. mean to you? Please complete the sentence: „community bremen e.V. is to me...“

... a wonderful opportunity to connect with people with interesting biographies after graduation.“

Bremen Managers Support Students and Graduates

The fifth round of the mentoring program “Fokus Berufseinstieg” has successfully started at the University of Bremen. 20 students and graduates from the Humanities and Social Sciences participate in the ten-month-program which prepares them to enter the job market. Each mentee has a mentor from local Bremen industry, economy and cultural sphere. Many Alumni have joined as mentors also. The mentees and mentors mutually decide on how to shape their relationship: while some take the chance to participate in a project at the mentor's company, others may prefer regular coaching. The program originally started in 2010 at the Career Center at the University of Bremen. More information can be found [HERE](#).

New Additions to the „Lyrical Path“ in the Bürgerpark

Bremen's Bürgerpark, the green focal point amidst the city, received nine new poems alongside the path on the east side of the park. The “Lyrical Path” connects city centre and university and invites visitors to stroll and enjoy poetry. The path was created in 2010 for the 350th birthday of the university library Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen (SuUB) and the 145th anniversary of the Bürgerpark association.



Federal President Joachim Gauck with the Social Policies Memorandum
© Andreas Fischer

Federal President Receives Social Policies Memorandum

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary celebration of the Federal Social Security Court, the Federal President Joachim Gauck received a memorandum on the foundation and challenges of the welfare state. It contains more than 800 pages and was written partly by scientists from the Bremer Sonderforschungsbereich „Staatlichkeit im Wandel“ (Sfb 597) and the Center for Social Policies, the Zentrum für Sozialpolitik (ZeS) at the University of Bremen. The memorandum deals

with topics such as changes in the labor market, the diversification of family reforms, international social policies and national disparity. Jurists, historians, philosophers, sociologists, economists and political scientists strike a balance in 38 chapters. The editors from Bremen are Professor Stephan Leibfried and Peter Masuch, who is president of the Federal Social Security Court since 2007. The memorandum was also published by Erich Schmidt Verlag: [HERE](#).

First Market Report on 17 Pharmaceuticals conducted by University of Bremen

Which additional benefits do new medicaments really provide? The Centre for Social Policy at the University of Bremen, Zentrum für Sozialpolitik (ZeS), examined data provided by medical insurance company Techniker Krankenkasse on costs and benefits of 17 medicaments available on the market in comparison to well-researched and approved therapies. New oral anticoagulants, newer antidiabetics as well as biotechnologically produced compounds for treating rheumatoid arthritis were tested. Six of the examined antidiabetics did not show any additional benefits for patients. Not a single medicament achieved an overall positive result.

Background of this study is the evaluation of pharmaceuticals originally planned in 2011 by the legislator which was cancelled to avoid extended lawsuits with the affected companies. The results of the ZeS show how important the evaluation is: Medicaments which are more expensive without additional benefits in comparison to other pharmaceuticals that are causing unnecessary costs for the statutory health insurance companies. The findings of the evaluation are allocated to physicians by the Techniker Krankenkasse.

Bremen Senate Passes “Wissenschaftsplan 2020“

The “Wissenschaftsplan 2020”, basis of education planning in the Land Bremen, has been passed by Bremen’s Senate. The plan aims – according to the Senate – to guarantee reliable planning and continuity to the University and the colleges in Bremen. “The new financial framework resolves only the structural deficit that exists since 2007. However, the university’s underfunding remains,” says University Rector Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernd Scholz-Reiter. “With the prospect of year-

ly rising energy and labor costs at the University of Bremen, the “Wissenschaftsplan” equals a budget cut of ten percent. In order to retain the University of Bremen – and with it, the science location Bremen – we urgently need further funding.” The cuts equal the loss of 2.000 places to study. The course Psychology is already on trial; the university has been asked by the Senate to examine whether to keep the course or not. The Board of the Alumni network strongly recommends to keep the University of Bremen

as it is: “The broad spectrum of courses as well as the high quality in research and teaching are an important location factor for the Land Bremen. This is the basis for the attractive science location Bremen. Our university secures the education of future professionals; their academic performance is the motor for the economic and cultural development in the region and beyond,” comments Michael Wolff, deputy chairman of community bremen e.V..

Bremen Social Scientist Joins Junge Akademie

Scientists often have to deal with big data. How does this effect scientific methods? How does big data change science? Social scientist Carina Schmitt at the Zentrum für Sozialpolitik (ZeS), the centre for social policies at the University of Bremen, concerns herself with this dynamic topic. This year, she was admitted to the "Junge Akademie", meaning young academy. Jurist Moritz Renner, holder of the renowned Lichtenberg Professorship at the University of Bremen, also joined the academy in 2012. Carina Schmitt



will research at the academy for five years with a budget of 30.000 EUR. The Junge Akademie is a collaborative project of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften and the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina based in Berlin.

ZARM-Scientist Receives Zeldovich Medal

Benny Rievers, scientist at the ZARM, the Center for Applied Aerospace Technology and Micro Gravitation at the University of Bremen, received the Zeldovich Medal in the category "Fundamental Physics" by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The medal has been awarded to researchers who are younger than 36 for their exceptional accomplishments since 1990. Rievers is honored for his research on the Pioneer Anomaly, a consistent deceleration of the NASA orbiters Pioneer 10 and 11.

Social Scientist Appointed to Supervisory Board at Gesundheit Nord

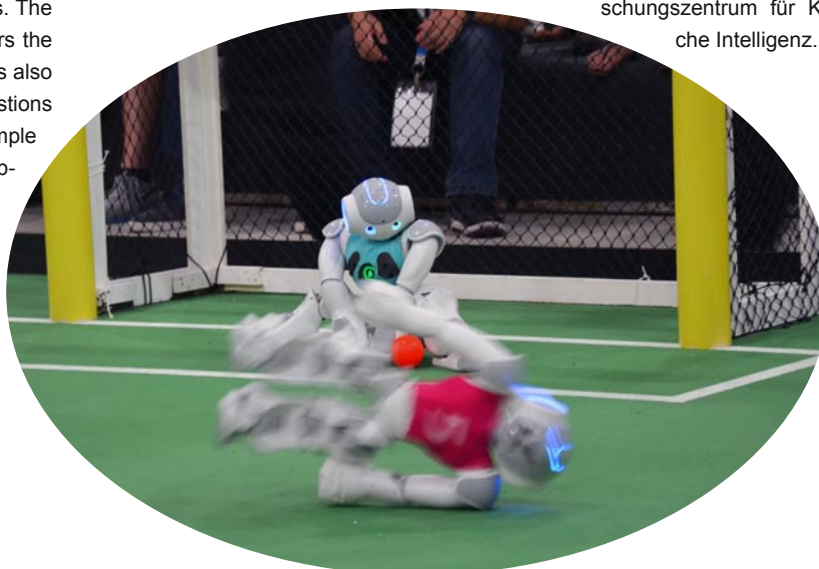


Another success for the Zentrum für Sozialpolitik (ZeS), the centre for social policies at the University of Bremen: Professor Karin Gottschall, department head at the ZeS, was appointed to the supervisory board at Gesundheit Nord, a group of Bremen medical centers. The board is a control committee that monitors the work of the management. Board members also contribute their expertise and pose questions concerning the management, for example in the fields of human resource development. "The supervisory board of such a large municipal clinic group impacts the institutional health policy in Bremen. In times of strained government budgets it is not easy to guarantee both efficiency and quality. It is a great honor for me to contribute to this", says Karin Gottschall.

RoboCup 2014: B-Human Comes Third in World Cup, Receives Award as „Most Valuable Player“

Bremen team B-Human, four times world champion in robot soccer, had to acknowledge itself beaten by Australian team rUNSWift at RoboCup 2014 in João Pessoa, Brazil. B-Human came third in the world cup and received the title "Most Valuable Player". The Bremen

team has competed in RoboCup Standard Platform League since 2009. RoboCup is an international initiative to promote research in the fields of artificial intelligence and robotics. B-Human is a project of the University of Bremen and the research unit „Cyber-Physical Systems“, at the Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz.



Chinese Choir Visits Bremen

The visit of Shanghai University's choir in Bremen was a thorough success: "Especially the concert in the Haus am Walde has delighted musicians and visitors alike", says University Music Director Dr. Susanne Gläß.

"Our guests told us that this concert was the highlight of their stay in Bremen", says Gläß. Although several weather stations had predicted heavy rain, it stayed dry for the joint open air concert.

Singing German and Chinese Songs Together

Out of reverence for both musical cultures, the program contained songs from German siblings Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Fanny Hensel as well as Chinese compositions. Directors Susanne Gläß and Hailun Chu had selected the pieces together at their last meeting in Shanghai in 2013 and rehearsed them with their choirs for several months before the concert.

Insights into German Living

Shanghai University's choir was accommodated by the members of the choir and the orchestra in Bremen. "Our guests had a chance to get a realistic insight into the life of Germans. You cannot replace this with books or movies", says Gläß. "Some questions are not answered in a book – for example: How wealthy are the Germans? What do they eat? What kind of beds do they sleep in? How clean are they? What is very different and what is surprisingly similar to China?"

Bremen University's choir is cooperating with two Chinese Universities: In June 2013, the „Orchestra of Chinese Folk Music“ of the Ocean University of China in Qingdao visited Bremen. In September 2013, choir and orchestra in Bremen visited Shanghai, Qingdao and Beijing on a two week journey.

International Office Has a New China/Asia Consultant

Dr. Regine Moll is the new consultant for China/Asia at the International Office. She is involved in the organization of the symposium for the ten year anniversary of the partnership between the University of China (OUC) and the University of Bremen. At the same time, the OUC is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Moll will also participate in several fairs and events in China and Taiwan to inform students, Ph.D. candidates and researchers about the University and Bremen. She also advises students who are interested in the double-master program with the OUC in the field of Marine sciences.



About:

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

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