

## EDITORIAL



Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,

the year has progressed; this issue will cover fall events and fascinating topics; for example, our alumni networking with Bremery, the general meeting, a look behind the scenes of BIBA on October 26, and training opportunities. It also covers the international connection to our Research Ambassador alumna in Mexico after its most recent earthquake. There is a report on the first-year students' experiences as the University of Bremen is starting into a new semester. For sure, this will bring back memories from your own first days on campus. University politics will also be addressed in this newsletter, as will a look into the work of our office. So we hope that there is something of interest for everybody in this issue.

Hoping you will enjoy this fall reading,



Derk Schönfeld

### Our events at a glance!

**26. October**  
General Meeting  
Networking of, for and with Alumni at  
BIBA

**28. October**  
Career Prospects with Alumni – Net-  
working Online and Offline

**05. December**  
Networking at Borda

## A New Face in the Alumni Office!

Our office coordinator Petra Morschheuser seeks to explore new avenues – which is why we bid her farewell and wish her all the best for her future. However, she is not going to leave completely: We are happy to keep her in our network as an alumna!

The new face in the Alumni office in the SFG building is Ute Mai. She previously worked at the ZeMKI at Linzer Straße and has now been in our office since early October. We are very excited to have her on board and are looking forward to a close and successful cooperation.

You can reach Ute Mai by phone at 0421-21869777 or via [alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de). You can also meet and talk to her in person at the general meeting at the [BIBA](#)./MW



Petra Morschheuser and Ute Mai, © privat.

## General Meeting at the BIBA – and Subsequent Networking

A new place – an exciting setting! This year, our general meeting will be held at the BIBA – Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics at the University of Bremen. New this year, and especially interesting because of it, is that subsequent to the meeting Professor Dr. Klaus-Dieter Thoben will present us with details and background information on the research in logistics conducted at the institute. It was founded in 1981 and is, thus, the oldest university-affiliated institute of the University of Bremen.

The combined events, therefore, provide room for an internal meeting (for members only) as well as the exchange with additional guests.

The events will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017 and take place at the [BIBA](#), Hochschulring 20, 28359 Bremen.

The general meeting will begin at 4:15 p.m.

The much appreciated event series 'Networking of, for, and with Alumni' with a look behind the scenes of the BIBA will begin at 6 p.m.

If you have not registered yet, you can do so now. You can find the registration for the general meeting [here](#); the one for the networking event you can find [here](#). /MB



© Jens Lehmkuhler / BIBA.

## Knowing Where You Come From...

We are getting new faces! Because this time, we did not want to settle for classic images. Our flyers now carry the authentic faces of our alumni who smile at us from the cover of the info material as representatives for many. Behind each face is, of course, an interesting story, which we will be told one by one in the upcoming newsletters. All Alumni 'models' will be interview-

ed by us. We are excited to find out more about their life and career paths that originated on campus in Bremen. We are sure that many more members could contribute to this as well. We are looking forward to that and would like to invite you to help distribute the flyers./MB



From the left: Dr. Julia Gieseler, Christoph Ranze, Levka Muratidis und Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker, © Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V./Jens Lehmkuhler

## Winner in the ‚Bund-Länder‘ Program

The University of Bremen is among the winners for the promotion of young academics. The Joint Science Conference of the federal and state governments (GWK) presented the results of the first round of approvals in a press conference in Berlin on September 21, 2017. The winners were selected in a competitive procedure.



The University of Bremen, © Universität Bremen.

The program lasts from 2017 to 2032, in which the federal government allocates up to one billion Euro for professorships in two rounds of approvals; the federal states secure the overall financing.

The application of the University of

Bremen is one of the ones having been selected. Seven professorships are going to be financed by the program. Leading up to the application, a comprehensive human resource development concept was submitted, which is meant to improve planning a career path for young academics. The professorships are so-called tenure track professorships. That means that lecturers will go through an evaluation after a probation period of up to six years. If they successfully undergo this evaluation, their position will be made into a permanent, i.e. 'tenured', professorship. As early as in 2001, Bremen University implemented the tenure track option. The hope is to not only improve the possibility for the reconciliation of family and work life but, according to the university rector Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter, career paths are thus made more transparent and more easily plannable.

Hence, funding opportunities for young academics are progressing./MB

## Dickinson Chairs – New Seating Options at Bremen University

More of the iconic Adirondack chairs with their comfortable rounded backs will be set up on campus. As a symbol for an active partnership with Dickinson College and to style the university, everybody with a bond to the university can have a personal Dickinson Chair set up on campus for a donation of 400 Euro. A plaque will feature the



The Dickinson Chairs are a well-liked meeting point.

name(s) of the sponsor(s).

This year, Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. donated another three chairs. They were set up in the so-called 'Garden of Nations' in front of the administrative building (VWG). For us this represents unity, support, style, and livable design with a solid anchor. The university thus becomes a place of partnership and relaxation at the same time. We join the university in joy that a total of 25 chairs are now enriching the look of the university campus and invite passers-by to take a break and communicate with each other.

# 6 QUESTIONS FOR...

In each newsletter, we ask one of our members six questions about their time in Bremen. For this issue, we interviewed Dr. Alejandra Castro-Carranza from the Morelia Institute of Technology in Mexico.

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.



Dr. Alejandra Castro-Carranza, © privat.

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

From October 2013 to June 2016 I worked in a Marie Curie Project. But before that, my husband came to Delmenhorst as a Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg Fellow for ten months. He was working at the University of Oldenburg. During that time, I was looking for options there or nearby to continue my career as a scientist. However, I did not find attractive options according to my interests. When I learned about the University of Bremen, I thought it was a potential place to work in an environment, with colleagues, and in laboratories that were all multidisciplinary in order to develop innovation. So, I improved my knowledge in cooperation with other groups.

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

I have many and really nice memories! As soon as I arrived, I was able to work with other researchers and students in a friendly environment. My first feeling was one of complete independence.

During my stay in Bremen, I was nominated to be part of the photo exposition 'Right here: Wissenschaftlerinnen

im akademischen Mittelbau' by Julia Beyer. My photo, together with those of other colleagues, was exhibited in the glass hall as a way to show the importance of women in science. When my daughter saw it, she was so surprised and said: "Mummy, that's you up there!" I cannot forget her happy face. I was the only one from Latin America. Therefore, I felt really honored to be part of that exposition.

Also, I was appointed to be a Research Ambassador of the University of Bremen in Mexico. This has been a very fruitful experience since the very first day when I was officially honored with the position. I remember that day because I met Yasemin Karakaşoğlu. She is such an impressive woman, mother, and important researcher, who I admire. I have also met amazing people who are still part of my life.

Additionally, I keep in mind the memories of my experiences with students. They can be so motivated to do great things in science as a team. I am very proud of most of the students who were under my supervision.

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

I remember lots of peoples on my journey. First, my aunt, who was one of my mentors in Mexico. She encouraged me to learn languages and to start a scientific career. I remember plenty of my professors from whom I learned a lot.

But there are other people I consider a great reference and sources of inspiration. My husband, who is also a scientist, has supported me personally and professionally. Prof. Dr. Magali Estrada, who was the first woman I worked with in science. And especially Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gutowski (Institute of

Solid State Physics) – my host at the University of Bremen. He has been a great mentor to me. He has supported me with every single project and idea at the university and abroad. He is a very special person for me. I am so grateful to know him and for all of his advice.

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

*In difficult moments, only passion will keep you going strong!*

First of all: to open their minds! For different cultures, exchange of knowledge, and experiences. I am convinced that will be enriching for them. Academically: to work hard – for me, that is the way to build the best version of oneself and, therefore, to achieve great things in life. But also, to choose what they like the best. Because in difficult moments, only passion (together with knowledge) will keep you going strong!

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

... a great multidisciplinary scenario to enrich one's knowledge and professional experiences. It has a family-friendly environment, in which you can grow personally, academically, and culturally!

## 6. What does Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. stand for in your eyes? Please complete the following sentence: Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. ...

... stands for the generation of innovation and for mutual benefit through networking!

## Alumni at Bremergy on 21st September

From the lecture hall directly to applying acquired knowledge – one of the fascinating projects doing that is the designing and constructing of an electronic race car, which competes in national and international races in the Formula Student.

Its team of **65 people** takes on responsibility and volunteers next to studying in order to make first experiences in application. The team, however, does not only consist of people in technical careers. Students in Business Studies also have their place on the team.

In engineering especially, the support of young female recruits is very important, which is why the team is particularly happy about female support in the Electrical and Mechanical teams. The completed Bremergy race car competes against teams from across



Alumni at Bremergy.

the world at race events in Germany and – like this year – for example in Italy.

At the event **'Networking of, for, and with Alumni'** on September 21, we met with Fabian Hensel (Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering), Ann-Maraïke Benthien (Marketing, Business Studies), Max Pape (Mechanics, Mechanical Engineering), and Vivien



At the traditional Get-Together.

Kleeberg (Team Leader, Business Studies). These four gave us

an insight into the university depot. Not only have they been able to win numerous sponsors – among them big names such as Volkswagen – but the hosts are passionately and with dedication seeking further sponsors in order to pay for material costs, transportation, and technical developments. After a short presentation, we were given a lot of details and information on the race car as well as

the work and perspective of the project. It also became apparent how difficult it is to find new students who carry on the worthwhile project, given that it requires many **hours of intensive work**, dialogues, plans, and calculations next to the regular work for university. But it is worth it! The experiences won in the framework of this practically oriented project qualify the participants additionally for their future careers and give them security and interdisciplinary insights into procedures that university classes can only offer on a very limited basis. It is, thus, a great addition.

The alumni event was rounded-off at the get-together at the university depot and everybody was appropriately happy, cheerful, and interested. It was an elating encounter offering specific possibilities for support; an exchange that made campus vivid once more for its alumni. We wish the team all the best on their path! If you are interested in supporting the team actively, please contact: [Ann-Maraïke.Benthien@bremergy.de](mailto:Ann-Maraïke.Benthien@bremergy.de)./MB

### More Support for Young Start-Up Ideas

For fifteen years already, CAMPUSiDEEN has been supporting excellent start-up ideas from Bremen universities. You can find more info [here](#) (German only!).

The CAMPUSiDEEN competition honors the best start-up ideas in the academic landscape of Bremen, be they on the fast and precise evaluation of seabed data or a cost-effective way of detecting mold or even improved medical care in the countryside. A total of 17,000 Euro is awarded to the winners. This year, the awards were presented for the fifteenth time. In the current round, teams



The CAMPUSiDEEN Competition, © BRIDGE.

of the University of Bremen and the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology are among the winners. The competition is held by the university initiative BRIDGE, which was founded in 2002. Through BRIDGE, the University of Bremen, the Bremen University of Applied Sciences, and Bremer Aufbau-Bank support start-ups forming at universities. Among their services are consultations on the topic of self-employment as well as a course program./MB

### Networking Online and Offline

Networking – how exactly does it work? At a new event of 'Career Prospects with Alumni' taking place on **October 28, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, we seek to answer this question. Learn about how to become active in networks, and find out tips and tricks of starting your own network. **Michael Blochberger**, marketing expert and communication trainer, will hold the workshop. He has been coaching entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals in strategic market positioning and networking for over thirty years. He will make you a networking professional – online and offline.

**Notice:** The number of participants is limited to twenty people. Spots are still available. Take your chance to register now! We



Networking with Alumni, © vege.

are able to offer this high-value seminar to our members for 40 Euro per person, an exceptionally low price. The event will take place at the University of Bremen. For more information and to register, please follow this [link](#)./MW

## Borda – Integrated Water Management

**B**ORDA was founded in 1977. With 100,000 German mark, the project began as a small Bremen association dealing with development policy. Today – forty years later – it is one of the largest, charitable expert organizations in the state of Bremen. The Overseas Research and Development Association – BORDA in short – almost exclusively works abroad. It operates in a total of 25 countries now and



The Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, © BORDA.

realizes projects in basic sanitation around the world. This is possible thanks to the commitment of the now 400 employees.

We think that is a reason to get to know BORDA better. Our alumnus and board member Christoph Sodemann, who is spokesperson for BORDA e.V., invites us to the Bremer Neustadt (Am Deich 45D, 28199 Bremen) on December 5, 2017 for an event of the series 'Networking of, for, and with Alumni' in order to get to know BORDA and engage in conversations. The event begins at 6 p.m. Alongside fascinating reports and first-hand information, there will be plenty of time for discussion and networking at the by now traditional get-together. The event ends at 9 p.m. Participation is limited to 25 people. You can find further information and a registration link [here](#).

## Funding for Bremen Project on Automobile Logistics Processes in Sea and Inland Ports

**I**ntelligent planning and control for more effectiveness and efficiency was the topic – which will now be funded with **2.6 million Euro** by the federal government.

At the Bremerhaven Auto Terminal more than 2.1 million ve-



© Heinrich Hecht for the BIBA in Bremen.

hicles are handled each year. Many of the numerous complex processes at the port are still controlled manually, which is addressed by the new research project 'Isabella.' Its goal: An intelligent system is to facilitate the interactive planning and control of the handling of automobiles at sea and inland ports by means of mobile data collection, real time status reports, and simulations. It is meant to create a logistics processing that is adapted to and optimized for the current conditions and thus contributes to an improved effectiveness and efficiency. The three partners involved in the project are BIBA – Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics, BLG Auto Terminal Bremerhaven, and the Bremen technology provider 28Apps. The project has a duration of three years and encompasses a funding sum of 3.7 million Euro. It is supported by lead partner TÜV Rheinland./MB

## Award for Carina Schmitt of SOCIUM

**G**ood news: **Carina Schmitt** (Professor for Global Social Policy) of the research center **SOCIUM at the University of Bremen** will be receiving 1.5 million Euro in funding from the European research community.

She has been awarded one of the coveted ERC Starting Grants. The European Research Council (ERC) will now fund her scientific work, in which the professor conducts research on the topic



Prof. Dr. Carina Schmitt, © Universität Bremen.

The Legacy of Colonialism: Origins and Outcomes of Social Protection. She examines the role that the colonial past plays in several developing countries in terms of their effectiveness of social policy in struggling against poverty and social inequality. Together with some colleagues, she is also implementing a database of information on social policies from a global and historic perspective. Congratulations!/MB

## New Vice Rector

**P**rofessor Dr. **Eva-Maria Feichtner** (Professor for Algebra at the University of Bremen) has assumed the office of Vice



Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Feichtner,  
© Harald Rehling / Uni Bremen

Rector for Diversity and Internationality on October 1, 2017. Her predecessor Professor Yasemin Karakaşoğlu would like to focus more on her research topic in the department of education after six years in the office. The new vice rector seeks to expand the international cooperation network, train young academics, and secure excellent scientific practice. Eva-Maria Feichtner's work aims primarily at not only applying the helpful set of rules concerning diversity but says that "in the end it is all about creating an attitude towards diversity that will make rules superfluous in the long term." We wish the professor of mathematics good luck and a good start into her new office!/MB

## Excellence Strategy:

### Success of the University of Bremen's Marine Sciences

The University of Bremen has been able to advance to the second round of the Excellence Strategy with MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences. In the framework of the competition promoted by the federal and state governments, the great marine sciences were again convincing in their draft proposal for an Excellence Cluster – very much to the joy of the rector of the University of Bremen:

*"We are thrilled that MARUM is bringing us success in the Excellence Strategy as well,"* said Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter.



The MARUM, © MARUM – Zentrum für Marine Umweltwissenschaften, Universität Bremen; V. Diekamp.

The Center for Marine Environmental Sciences has been successful in the past within the Excellence Initiative and currently holds the only Excellence Cluster at the University of Bremen. According to Scholz-Reiter, MARUM's success shows that the University of Bremen is excellently positioned. This strength has now paid off in the first phase of the Excellence Strategy.

The Bremen Senator for Science, Health, and Consumer Protection, Professor Eva Quante-Brandt, supported the rector's statement: *"The University of Bremen has a prestigious scientific institution in MARUM, which is known internationally for its excellent research."*

German universities are to be further supported in the competition internationally, which is why the federal and state governments decided in 2016 to continue the former Excellence Initiative as the so-called Excellence Strategy. The Excellence Strategy comprises **two funding lines**: the Excellence Clusters and the Universities of Excellence.

Excellence Clusters are large internationally visible research alliances which look into a topic with long-term relevance, are positioned interdisciplinary, and characterize the respective university. If successful, they will initially receive funds of **three to ten million Euro** each year for seven years. If they successfully undergo an evaluation after that, they can also receive funds for a longer period of time.

This year's competitors were extraordinarily strong. **63 universities applied through a total of 195 preliminary applications** for Excellence Clusters. Along with new initiatives, already existing clusters applied for the continuation of their funding. Those clusters that were selected in the first phase can now submit a full application. In the end, about fifty applications will win the competition. Competing against the already existing 43 clusters, this situation proved difficult for new initiatives.

A total of five draft proposals for Excellence Clusters had been submitted by the University of Bremen in the spring of 2017, four of which are not invited to submit a full application. Nevertheless, the rectorate is convinced by the university's research performance: *"This is of course disappointing for us and especially those who have put a lot of effort into the proposals over the last few months. Even if a small step was missing to reach success, we believe in the quality of our research. We will thus consistently continue on our path and will, in seven years, apply again in the Excellence Strategy,"* said Scholz-Reiter.



Successfull in the Excellence Strategy, © MARUM – Zentrum für Marine Umweltwissenschaften, Universität Bremen; V. Diekamp.

The senator added: *"We will strongly support its continuation."*



The University of Bremen.

The Universities of Excellence funding line is meant to support universities as institutions and their development as international leaders in research. The University of Bremen was successful in 2012 with their **future concept 'Ambitious and Agile'**. In this line of the Excellence Strategy, only those universities can apply that are successful in at least two Excellence Clusters. University alliances need three clusters.

The discontinuation of the second funding line of the Excellence Strategy now means that the University of Bremen has to bid farewell to the substantial funding of the last three years. Yet, Professor Scholz-Reiter is sure that, despite the painful loss of the title of Excellence, the University Strategy 2018 to 2028 is **able to take up the success** and develop it further. Professor Andreas Breiter, Vice Rector for Research and Young Academics, agrees optimistically: *"The University of Bremen will continue to be a place of excellent research."*

MARUM is definitely one to ensure that. The Center for Marine Environmental Sciences now has to formulate its full application. The deadline for that is February 21, 2018. In specific, MARUM hopes to research the seabed in the future./MB

## „Grow Green“ – the New International Office kompass Project at the Hanselife Trade Show in

### Bremen

International Urban Gardening – at the student housing dormitory ‘Am Fleet’ and ‘Spittaler Straße’ – is a project that has been implemented in the course of last year by the kompass team of the International Office of the University of Bremen in cooperation with the Studentenwerk and the association Gartenfreunde Bremen e.V. as well as about forty students from around the world residing in the dorms. It was important to the participating students to grow their own herbs and vegetables, especially herbs from their home countries. That is how international students grew herbs and vegetables from around the world in the garden in patches built from pallets, created a new meeting place, and started cooking together. The team at the trade show stand – students from the kompass

team – explained the visitors at the Hanselife trade show the story behind it, who were most often fascinated by it and carried home new ideas for their own yard or balcony: with upcycling ideas for old shoes, plastic bottles, or sinks or the irresistible urge to build their own pallet garden patch.

This current project had already drawn a surprisingly huge press response: A comment on a gardening blog was followed by a full-page article in the Weser Kurier and subsequently a stand at the largest trade show in Northern Germany. Not only due to the actuality of urban gardening, the project drew in many visitors at the trade show and was a huge success./IO



At the Hanselife trade show, © International Office.



Herbs and vegetables from around the world, © International Office.



#### Shorthand symbol:

MB:  
Manuela Brocksieper  
MW:  
Mira Wischnowsky  
IO:  
International Office

All of the used pictures in the Newsletter are taken from the Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V., if not marked differently.

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