



## EDITORIAL



Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,

... at the end of the year it is not only about the gifts on Christmas Eve – but also about a great end-of-the-year report; mindfully perceiving time and how it has been used in a meaningful way.

There were so many things we alumni experienced together in 2017! And the end of the year still brings several interesting meetings, offers, and information. Therefore, you will want to read this newsletter carefully – it is worth it! I hope you enjoy the read and wish you a relaxing and harmonious holiday season as well as a flying start into the new year.

Yours

Derk Schönfeld

### General Meeting at BIBA

The general meeting of Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. with the following network meeting (cf. [p. 3](#)) took place at a special place on campus: at BIBA, Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics. For the twelfth time already since the foundation of the association, the alumni came together for their internal vote. Activities, commitment, and communication channels



Voting at the general meeting.

were discussed as well as the possible expansion of the work of the alumni and the cooperation with departments, the advisory board, and the university. Other topics were the establishment of regional groups and a review of the events held in 2017. We closed the fiscal year 2016 and gave an out-

look on future changes (personnel, further network invitations, and other plans). All participants had ample opportunity to engage in conversations, ask questions, and make suggestions. This year's general meeting was very dialogue-oriented and constructive. Exactly the way we wanted it to be.

We used the space and opportunity up to the last minute and were very happy about the eager exchange./MB

### Career Prospects with Alumni – This Time:

#### Salary Negotiations safely managed

How about a little more? Those who want a higher salary usually have to be proactive about it, which is not always easy. It is important to be aware of one's job performance, skills, and knowledge. However, negotiation skills are necessary as well.



The new seminar in our series 'Career Prospects with Alumni' is about systematically preparing salary negotiations – from making clear one's own interests to developing a strategy – and will take place on Saturday, **February 17, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** A group conversation will enable all participants to become aware of their strengths and to develop a strategy according to their wants and needs. In roleplay activities, concrete negotiations will be simulated and opportunities for improvement will be developed. The workshop will be held by **Dipl.-Ing. Heidrun Dahlmann**, who is an expert for salary negotiations. She has been in leadership positions for eleven years as training and marketing director in various wholesale companies and has been the managing director of the advertising agency BLOW. since 2001. Since 2014, she has been working as a coach. The event will take place at the Teerhof **Guest House of the University of Bremen (Auf dem Teerhof 58, 28199 Bremen)**. For our members, the workshop will be available for only 40 Euro per person. You can find further information and the link to register [here](#).

#### Our events at a glance!

##### Networking from, for and with Alumni:

Alumni at Sea Shepherd

(January 25, page 4)

##### Career Prospects with Alumni:

Salary Negotiations safely managed

(February 17, page 1)



# 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. Dennis-Kenji Kipker, Research Managing Director at the Institute for Information, Health, and Medical Law (IGMR), recipient of the Berninghausen Prize (cf. p. 5), and one of the new alumni faces on one of our flyers. If you would also like to appear in this section, please contact Ute Mai at the 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.



Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker, © privat.

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

I was a student in Bremen from 2006 to 2011 and subsequently did my doctorate here as well. While I was a student, I was most fascinated by how short and direct communication paths were. That created a familiar atmosphere between students and lecturers, which was very important to me. Taking part in the 'Taster Course Program' in Bremen convinced me right away. The support in the law department was ideal: personal contact and their flat organizational structure – however, the interesting focus areas and the general free-thinking direction were also a great advantage of the university in Bremen.

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

Spontaneously? The Berninghausen Prize. I had previously been a student in the same department in which I am now a

lecturer. It's a tremendous honor and simultaneously stands for the development that can take place here. I appreciate continuity and have always felt comfortable with the strong connection to the department.

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

I'd like to express my gratitude to my doctoral supervisor Prof. Dr. Benedikt Buchner for getting me onto the path of information law and providing guidance on numerous decisions within the science and on finding my own path.

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

Well, most of all to stay spontaneous! It's vital to avoid models of a long-term life plan. Instead, be spontaneous, venturesome, and decisive. That also means stop procrastinating and assume responsibility for yourself and others. The best opportunities are those you don't always expect. So, relax and keep your flexibility. Being open for something new is the best plan you can have. Only then you'll experience more than you intended.

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

...more than just an academic home for me because not only did I simply study and work here, I also found out for myself

what is important for me in life. Originally from North Rhine-Westphalia, my family and I moved to the north when I was still a child. And I am very grateful for this path and feel very much at home here.

## 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. is...

... a piece of cohesiveness within a fast-paced and fleeting world.

## Kurdish Media Scientists

### Visit University of Bremen

**D**evelopment cooperation in practice: In December, a group of media scientists from the metropolis Sulaimaniya in northern Iraq visited Bremen. It was their goal to engage in scientific exchange and, hence, advance media sciences at their home university. It has been a year since the Center for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI) of the University of Bremen has gone into partnership with the Media Department in Sulaimaniya. The Bremen visit was made possible also due to the financial contribution of the alumni of the University of Bremen.



Visiting the University of Bremen.



## Networking at BIBA

A short introduction by **Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Thoben** gave us an overview on the development, focus areas, and direction of BIBA over the last several years. The university-affiliated institute has been active in the surroundings of the University of Bremen for twenty years. Originating in Department Production Engineering – Mechanical Engineering and Process Engineering



At the traditional get-together.

(Department 4), it provides room for a varied field of specialists, such as scientists from industrial engineering, system engineering, space engineering, and others. The BIBA, Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics, was founded in 1981 and currently has **150 staff members**. Basic funding is provided by the State of Bremen; research is often funded externally. However, many research projects are also funded by the EU. The term 'Industry 4.0' is not new – but digitalization of information is still most important for developing current projects. 'Extended Products' is the

term of the future. Complexity of processes in logistics centers, increasing demands for eco systems, and, above all, the fact that all aspects of transport and merchandise management are always connected with each other present the biggest challenges for IT, mechanical engineering, logistics, and the semi-structured complex processes of today. Therefore, difficulties have to be tackled creatively early on. One of BIBA's strengths: advancing collaborative research between science and industry. Acquisition is made internationally. What is regularly needed are combined solutions from electrical engineering, communications engineering, and computer science with tools for production and logistics, for example in the sector of security. Prof. Thoben concluded: It is about humans first, then about qualification, organization, technology, process optimization, and only then computer science. After this theoretical introduction into the new form of service, the group of alumni split up into two teams. One group used **VR (virtual reality)** to learn how to weld without exposing oneself to danger, producing too much scrap, or requiring specific welding booths. This technique can be used by businesses and vocational schools to train their students and apprentices. It enables understanding the method and reduces the time to learn it. Virtual commissioning is ideal. The alumni were able to weld, look at the analysis of their work on the computer and evaluate it – and they could ask the professionals at



Demonstration of a new system for the sorting of packages.

BIBA their questions. The second team turned to the area of Robotics in a different section of the 500-square-meter 'playing field' and learned about the demands from **package robots** that can unload containers completely autonomously. Performance and flexibility were the key terms in this field. Sorting, forwarding, and selecting are done by means of omnidirectional drives. 180 motors are all individually controllable in free motion with QR- or barcodes. Via a tablet computer, everything can be controlled for demonstration as well. We were also able to experience the **omnidirectional drive** that was part of our report in newsletter 4/2017). What fascinating solutions thanks to innovative and often playful ideas! The excitement for the possibilities and freedom in researching at BIBA came across very vividly during the event. We would like to thank the institute for the wonderful evening!/MB

## Focke Museum – a New Exhibition With the Title

### 'Protest and New Beginning – Bremen after 1968'

It is an homage and a tribute to those days in Bremen that were not as hanseatically restrained as is typical, but when it was still quite fierce on campus. Not traditional and reserved but leftist and adventurous. A contradiction? Or rather the exciting basis for a vivid special exhibition?

The turbulent years between **1968 and 1983** are the focus of the exhibition at the Bremen museum for art and cultural history. As the youth was striving for renewal and the frustration of the decline of large companies was apparent, a time of transformation was ubiquitous. And yet, it also brought about change. Political powers moved in completely new directions and challenged the establishment. A trans-



Poster of the new exhibition, © Focke Museum.

formation that was palpable and visible socially as well as in arts and culture and whose character of indignation, contradiction, and rebellion has been captured in this fascinating exhibition. Logically, the University of Bremen with its legendary reputation of being a 'commie training center' is represented many times both in image and text. Dramatic times – recorded in pictures and examples.

The exhibition will end after **July 1, 2018.**/ MB



## Sea Shepherd – a Polarizing Invitation to Network

In the new year – on **January 25** to be exact – the alumni are invited to a network meeting at Sea Shepherd. Piracy in Bremen-Nord! We will meet the active marine environmentalists at **6 p.m. at the University of Bremen** (building SFG; Enrique-Schmidt-Straße 7; 28359 Bremen) to discuss and decide whether they are modern heroes or ‘EcoTerrorists’ – as they are often called due to their radical missions. It will be an exciting and polarizing evening but definitely one to look forward to. It is best to register quickly and to wear something black – their color of choice.

The non-profit organization was founded in 1977 for the **protection of the marine fauna**. They fight for the preservation of habitat, respect for the world’s oceans, and the strengthening of this fragile ecosystem. Sustainable protection and preservation are their goal – which they try to attain through often spectacular means. It will be an interesting visit for sure! You can find further information and the link to register [here](#)./MB



Sea Shepherd Deutschland e.V. is headquartered in Bremen-Vegesack, © Sea Shepherd.

## Over 100 ‘Deutschlandstipendium’ Scholarships Awarded to Students of the University of Bremen

For the seventh time already, the ‘Deutschlandstipendium’ scholarships were awarded. They were presented to **108 talented and committed students** on November 21, 2017. The certificates were handed out by the rector and Vice Rector for Diversity and Internationality in a ceremony in the GW 1 auditorium that included a talk with supporters as well as a presentation of extensive workshop offerings. Most of the scholarship holders volunteer next to studying. Supporting these students is made possible by private individuals, associations, and businesses. Among them – how could it be different? – is also Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V. We feel greatly indebted to supporting dedicated, promising talents on their path. That is why we again provide **six ‘Deutschlandstipendium’ scholarships** in 2017. You can find further information on the program [here](#)./MB



Proud scholarship holders, © Uni Bremen / Harald Rehling.

## Movie Premiere: ‘Biologie 2.0 – When Man Becomes Creator’

Together with the Kellner & Stoll Foundation, our association hosted the exciting three-part scientific documentary by fact+film at the Schauburg movie theater – a fascinating road movie that was filmed in various locations and with a lot of creativity. It is inventive, impressive, and produced to attract school and university students as well as everyone else interested in the topic.



Poster of the three-part road movie, © fact+film.

After the first part, a panel discussion ensued, moderated by former rector **Prof. Wilfried Müller**. The panel consisted of **Prof. Arnim von Gleich** (Production Engineering, University of Bremen), **Dr. Bernd Giese** (Institute of Safety/Security and Risk Sciences, University of Natural Resources – BOKU – Vienna), **Prof. Rita Groß-Hardt** (Biology/Chemistry, University of Bremen), and **Prof. Jutta Günther** (Business Studies & Economics, University of Bremen). The visionary

exchange of thoughts not only emphasized interdisciplinary cooperation but also allowed for questions from the audience.

The **producer from Bremen and University-of-Bremen alumnus Michael Wolff** (fact+film) gave a personal introduction into the production on the second night of the event, which was co-organized together with La Compagnie des Taxi Brousse, Paris, and France Télévisions.

So far, biologists have observed the formation and development of organisms and have tried to understand natural processes. Today, scientists in the field of synthetic biology try to change creation. The film invites its viewers to watch the most renowned scientists as they split genes. It is their aim to reorganize their elements like Lego bricks in order to modify living organisms according to their goals. The scientists want to develop **new production methods and solutions for problems** in the fields of energy, health, and nutrition. A sensible solution? Or is this interference highly risky? Play God? Or channel new methods and possibilities and bring them into a safe legal framework internationally? It is a topic of the future that the filmmakers from Bremen made attractive and easy to understand.

The premiere in the middle of the ‘Viertel’ was truly special! If you are interested in obtaining the DVD, please write to [info@fact-film.de](mailto:info@fact-film.de) /MB



## Berninghausen Prize for Outstanding Teaching at the University of Bremen

Three lecturers of the University of Bremen were awarded the Berninghausen Prize this year. The prize has been awarded for outstanding teaching since 1992 and honors strong commitment and great creativity of lecturers at the University of Bremen. The award includes prize money of a total of 6,000 Euro and was named after its founder Friedo Berninghausen.

The festive celebration took place in the GW 2 building on campus on **Wednesday, November 22**. The honorees are the psychologist **Dr. Iris Stahlke**, jurist **Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker** (one of the faces on the new alumni flyers; see 'Six Questions For ...' on [page 2](#)), and material scientist **Prof. Lucio Colombi Ciacchi**. We extend our most heartfelt congratulations to the recipients and introduce them below.

### Research-based learning in the bachelor's degree

Iris Stahlke from Human and Health Sciences received the award in the category 'Outstanding class with respect to research-based learning in the bachelor's degree' for her lecture 'Fundamentals, Paradigms, and Ethics of Counseling,' in which students are



The recipients of the 25th Berninghausen Prize. From the left: Dr. Iris Stahlke, Prof. Lucio Colombi Ciacchi and Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker, © Universität Bremen.

given the opportunity to actively participate in the socio-psychological research project 'Violence in Teenage Relationships.' Among other things, they conduct interviews with individuals as well as group discussions in schools or counseling institutions. The jury's explanation for awarding her the prize stresses the mixture of scientific and practical relevance.

### Research-based learning in the master's degree

For his seminar 'IT Security Law', jurist Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker received the prize in the category 'Outstanding class with respect to research-based learning in the master's degree.' The seminar is

aimed at students of computer science and law. It is its goal to find out how both areas are linked, how they interact, and how they are applied in practice. According to the jury's explanation, Dr. Kipker was particularly apt at vividly making the interplay and interaction accessible to the students by means of practical examples.

### Student award for eye-level discussion

Prof. Lucio Colombi Ciacchi (Production, Mechanical, and Process Engineering) is the recipient of the student award. He was nominated by a large number of students for five different classes. They were particularly enthusiastic that Colombi Ciacchi not only simply presents the facts but that he makes them work out the knowledge interactively and embed it into fitting contexts. According to the students, discussions and interactions about the topic are always held on eye-level. Prof. Lucio Colombi Ciacchi is also dedicated to improving the quality of teaching in his department outside of his own classes.

## Living Water...

The fruitful conversation seemed to be endless as our host **Christoph Sodemann** was a source of information that was moving and inspiring.

On December 5, 25 alumni visited BORDA – the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association – in Bremen-Neustadt. Set goal of BORDA is **basic sanitation** in emerging and developing nations and, thus, to improve the living conditions of the people there – in an energy-efficient and sustainable manner. Since its foundation in the 1970s, the association's goal is to provide **help for self-help** and to support capacity building for people so that they can implement their own projects – helping at eye-level. It is more about innovative ideas than complex technologies, about using pragmatic approaches and optimizing them. The boom in the cities that occurred in the 1980s has required a complete renewal of how we think about clean water and hygiene. Only well-functioning basic

sanitation can ensure both. Not until the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** of the UN (SDGs) has the topic come into focus internationally. By the year 2030, everyone should have access to basic sanitation and clean water. It is a demand that sets a noble yet not completely unattainable objective. BORDA has been the pioneer in this field. Therefore, the team from Bremen is often part of



Time for deepening conversations at the traditional get-together.

the conversations – as consultants and as a competent and experienced partner with a large network. BORDA **employs 400 people in 25 countries** across the globe.

Christoph Sodemann, spokesman at BORDA, presented to us in detail different sewage systems and their possibilities in use. This underlined BORDA's essential, conceptual task. They see themselves as a **provider of knowhow and as trainers**. One of the fundamental problems, however, still lies within the cultural taboo on this topic. Education is, thus, the decisive keyword. A photo volume was, for example, released in 2017 which aesthetically presents the cycle of materials from feces to fertilizer. The conviction, enthusiasm, and passion of our host defined the **lively discussion**. Many questions were asked and extensively discussed. It definitely was a topic that fascinated and activated the alumni./MB



## Clueless at the University of Bremen...or not?

Each October, numerous new faces flock into the city and to our university. An exciting time begins for the first-year students, so-called 'Erstis'. They are taking their first steps towards **independence and into adulthood**. In order to facilitate the start at the university and into studying, the student committee of each study program (called StugA, for Studiengangsausschuss) comes up with various activities



The 'Geology-Erstis' on a scouting expedition through the historical center of Bremen.

that are offered during the orientation week for the new students in their field.

As the name suggests, it is **all about orientation**. The week starts with introductory events, where the 'Erstis' learn what the upcoming semesters will bring, which classes they have to take, and who to talk to when they have questions. In an ensuing scavenger hunt across campus, they get a first impression of the university campus and hear from more advanced students in which buildings they have to be most careful in order to not get lost, for example, in the confusing hallways of the GW 2. Some students, such as the ones who study Biology or Chemistry, are provided with lab coats and have to undergo fire safety training. Others are already at the very beginning provided with information on future career paths that can be attained with the respective degree.

As important as orientation at the university is, it is equally important to make new contacts when in a new city. Therefore, the different student committees thought of a large number of **creative games and activities** in order to facilitate meeting new people. Be it scavenger hunts through Bre-

men in small groups, a Scotland Yard game in the city center, or the traditional pub crawls through the 'Viertel' in Bremen: There are endless possibilities of getting to know one's fellow students and **making new friends**. And those are a sure help when beginning to study at a large university in a new city.

The Geology StugA came up with a particularly charming activity: They offered a city tour of a different kind, in which they showed their 'Erstis' the historical center of Bremen on the basis of the rocks one can find there. Thus, both buildings and the ground are inspected very thoroughly, be they outside or within the many passages. Bremen is host to rocks from all over the world – from different corners of Germany but also from China and Brazil. Many buildings are made from the so-called '**Bremen Rock**', which is also what the White House in Washington, DC, is made out of. Yet, it does not even originate in Bremen but in Obernkirchen. It is a sedimentary rock that is easy to process and, therefore, very popular.

The Roland statue, our landmark, is also an interesting rock formation. The different body parts consist of **different rocks**, whose difference can be easily made out when looking at it more closely. The new students



The Roland Statue.

really liked this special tour in Bremen: "To see Bremen from this perspective was very interesting. You walk through the city with a very different view on things," one partici-



The Fellow Student Speed Dating Event of the Biology StugA.

pant summed up.

The Biology StugA was also creative. They hosted a **Fellow Student Speed Dating Event** for the first-years with the goal of facilitating conversations with new people and getting to know those better they may have already met briefly. The setup was the same as in real speed dating, just a little less romantic. "We are still waiting for the first biology 'Ersti' couple that met at the speed dating event," said one of the StugA members. In order for conversations to not be limited to the typical questions such as 'What's your name?' – 'How old are you?' – 'Where do you come from?', the StugA came up with different, more interesting, questions that were supposed to **spice up the conversations**. So in the three minute conversations, questions such as 'If you could be somebody else for a day, who would it be?' and 'If you were forced to change your citizenship, which would you choose?' were asked and answered. That way, the 'Erstis' not only had the chance to make new contacts but also to get to know better those they had already met.

We are excited about the wonderful activities in this year's orientation week and hope that our 'Erstis' had a great start in Bremen and will now commence an unforgettable time as students that they will always remember fondly!/MW



## Team Erasmus Road To Athens

Team Erasmus has been enriched over the years by international students from the University of Bremen and the Bremen University of Applied Sciences. The club provides **soccer fans from across the globe** with a European touch and is run by the Erasmus Initiative of the University of Bremen.

For the past four years, the team has been coached by Walter Menapace, a PhD candidate at the University of Bremen, who has taken Team Erasmus to a whole new level.

The **Blue Dogs**, the team's nickname, were crowned UniLiga champions twice and were the runner up on two other occasions. This year, they have had an amazing season so far by winning the UniLiga Bremen, securing a runner-up spot in the ‚Königsklasse‘ in Braunschweig and having pinned down their first sponsorship deal with the AOK Bremen/Bremerhaven. Team Erasmus' tremendous performance left the spectators spellbound, and they became the second best university soccer team



Team Erasmus in Athen. © International Office.

in Germany. The fairytale for the Blue Dogs continued – with the support of the Alumni of the University of Bremen – until Athens, where they competed against the best teams of European universities for the first ever UniLeague Euro held in October 2017. No one had expected that a team from Bremen, consisting of international students who had just gotten to know each other in the previous six months, could develop such great team chemistry and **qualify for the UniLeague Euro**. Despite

getting off to a winning start and becoming the focus of the tournament, Team Erasmus could not qualify for the semifinals.

The stakes are high but the team is willing to take on any challenge. It is currently competing in the Winterliga Bremen and has been training hard to bring the UniLeague Euro cup home. They are adamant about bringing glory to the University of Bremen in the coming years. We're wishing good luck for the future competitions!//IO

## Free Shop

As a support at the beginning of the semester there was a Free Shop for the international first-years on **October 13** at the University of Bremen. Members and friends of the university donated items they no longer needed but that would **greatly serve to initially equip a student apartment**. Organized by the Academy of Continuing Education (SeniorCitizens, a group of seniors taking courses at the University of Bremen) and the International Office (Welcome Centre and kompass), the students could pick out of many practical and original items for their apartments. Regardless



The international first-years at the Free Shop on October 13, © International Office.

of what was needed for the new home, the Free Shop provided a great basis.

Because of the wide range of goods, the students started well equipped in the new semester at the university. A fantastic Event!//IO

We wish  
you a harmonious holiday  
season and a flying start into the  
new year!



### Shorthand symbol:

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

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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