

ALUMNI-NEWS



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MEINE UNI BREMEN

In 2021, our university will be 50 years old. This anniversary year will be marked by numerous activities, including from the alumni association — just different than what we initially intended. Since the Corona situation means we cannot get together in person, we have come up with something special: the University of Bremen digital Alumni Wall. Here you have the opportunity to share information about yourself and your affiliation with the University of Bremen — to publish a personal statement, a photo, even a memory. In the best of company for 50 years: join us! We look forward to receiving your entry and filling in our Alumni Wall at www.meineUniBremen.de



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AN ESPRESSO WITH...KATRIN KRÄMER

Katrin Krämer studied German Linguistics and Literature as well as English Studies from 1986 to 1989 and 1992 to 1994 at the University of Bremen. Since the early 1990s, she has been working for Radio Bremen where she is now a presenter for Bremen Zwei. At the end of this year, she will host a series of 50th anniversary events organised by the University of Bremen and the alumni association titled "Just Change the World", which will focus on the University of Bremen's 50 years of service.

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LUISA LAUTERBACH — NEW STUDENT EMPLOYEE

Since 1 May 2021, Luisa Lauterbach has been working with us as a student employee responsible for the alumni associations's regional groups and chapters. After graduating from the University of Bremen in September 2019 with a bachelor's degree, she began a master's degree in psychology. Outside of her studies and work, she volunteers for the student organisation AIESEC, where she chairs the Bremen local committee in Bremen. "Through Luisa Lauterbach's work, we are pleased to be

able to further support our many committed regional group

and chapter members," said Alumni Managing Director Derk Schönfeld.

2021 - UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN TURNS 50



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UNI BREMEN'S DNA: OPEN-MINDED

It could hardly be more succinct. The image that alumni, staff and students have of the University of Bremen can be summed up in one descriptor: open-minded. This is the result of a survey on the "DNA" of the university, which the alumni association, Faculty 8 (Social Sciences) and the Social Science Methods Centre sent out in 2020 to our more than 8,000 alumni newsletter subscribers. The survey has now been evaluated as part of a research project by master's student Lena Wollenberg — with exciting results.

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EVENTS - ANNOUNCEMENT



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THE VIRUS - A GLOBAL SOCIAL CRISIS

In Germany, the public debate about the Corona pandemic is almost dominated by discussions about lockdown measures and relaxations, around vaccination campaigns or their (alleged) failure and virus variants. We want to discuss a global dimension with international scientists from Africa and Bremen: which social, ethnic and also racial factors determine the spread of the virus? This event is part of the Open Campus, which will take place virtually again this year due to the pandemic. On **9 June 2021** from **6 - 8 pm CET** we will discuss the global dimension of the pandemic with international scientists.

More information

EVENTS - REVIEW

ALUMNI EVENT AS PART OF EUROPE WEEK

"Fortress Europe: What options does Bremen have for action on asylum policy?" That was the title of a panel discussion organised by the alumni association together



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with the Bremen Council for Integration at the end of May during Bremen's Europe Week. A hotly debated topic, and not only because of the many deaths in the Mediterranean. Thanks to our three speakers (all alumnae), our online talk (sponsored by DAAD) was a factual and highly informative discussion in front of a knowledgeable audience.

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CAMPUS-NEWS



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NEOS — A FUTURE-ORIENTED HOME FOR DIGITAL INNOVATION

The construction boom at the University of Bremen continues and perhaps the most exciting project is currently coming up behind NW1. In March 2022, the new NEOS complex will be inaugurated, housing the DIGITAL HUB Industry and the new headquarters of the IT service provider encoway. NEOS is also the future location of several university institutes, start-ups and an Open Innovation Lab, where SMEs and established industrial companies can experiment. This will be a "high-tech playground" according to our alumnus Christoph Ranze, who is the managing director of encoway. NEOS embodies a breathtaking success story that started a hundred metres away with three small offices.

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FACULTY 1 GRADUATION GOES ONLINE, AND HOW!

The Physics and Electrical Engineering Faculty pulled out all the stops to stage a high-tech online graduation. 230 participants switched on the ceremony and were treated to a multi-device experience: two parallel Zoom sessions working in concert with seven computers, two microphones, two projectors and two video cameras. The soundtrack: music from Star Wars and Schubert piano melodies live from Dr Christian Melsheimer's own music room. 76 of the 150 graduates present were honoured with live or pre-recorded contributions. The closing speech was given by our board member Dr Reinhard Ahlers, and after an hour's delay the champagne corks were popped. Wow! Imitation recommended.



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Empty stadiums, strict hygiene rules — no problem for footballing robots. Yet for more than a year, the pandemic has brought play to a standstill for the high-tech kickers. That's because their human masterminds have not been allowed to accompany them to tournaments, a hard blow for Team B-Human from the University of Bremen and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DKFI). But now humans and robots have done an end run around the virus and successfully competed in their first virtual tournament in Germany — a completely new challenge for the winning Bremen team.

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INTERNATIONAL



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WORKSHOP ON "SUSTAINABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP"

Sustainability & entrepreneurship: these two topics were the subject of a multi-day online workshop for students held at the end of March and beginning of April 2021. Thirty students from the University of Bremen and the University of Cardiff took part in the Bremen-Cardiff Alliance's first international and interdisciplinary student-focused workshop. The workshop was designed, organised and moderated by colleagues from Cardiff University's Global Opportunities and Enterprise & Start-up Teams and the University of Bremen's UniTransfer/BRIDGE group.

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"WE EVEN HELP WITH FOOD VOUCHERS"

It doesn't really come as a surprise: the Corona pandemic has dramatically worsened the situation for international students. Suffering the most from the months-long lockdown are the approximately 1,500 students from Africa and Asia. "The pandemic has revealed, as if under a magnifying glass, where the weak points of our society are," says Dr Jutta Paal, who is responsible for "Incomings" and coordinates the kompass programme at the University of Bremen's International Office. Through good ideas and initiatives, the International Office has been able to offer immediate assistance and support students as much as possible.

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NEWSFLASH

FURTHER FUNDING FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH



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Great success for the University of Bremen: The Collaborative Research Center "Everyday Activity Science and Engineering" (CRC EASE) will receive a further four years of funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG). The decision supports the expansion of Al-based robotics in Bremen.

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UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTES TO IMPORTANT CLIMATE PAPER

Researchers from the University of Bremen actively contributed to the coordination and formulation of the concept paper "Polarregionen im Wandel," which has now been submitted to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, which wishes to invest an additional 20 million euros in polar research.

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