Dear international Alumni,
we experienced another exciting year at Bielefeld University. Among old building lots and great parties, we celebrated some anniversaries. Read more about it in this newsletter.

**Campus Festival Is Back For a Second Round**

For the second time, Bielefeld University hosted the Campus Festival in summer 2016. This time Frittenbude, SDP, Bosse and Sportfreunde Stiller visited among others to perform on one of the four outdoor stages or the indoor stage. Compared with the previous year, the festival area was even expanded. Thanks to 19,500 visitors, Campus Festival was again completely sold out. At 33°C students were enjoying a cold beer or two. In 2015 the annual Campus Festival replaced the former popular Westend-Party.

**Personnel Campaign UNIplus Results in More Than 40 New Professors for Bielefeld University**

“Within the two coming years, we will hire more than 40 additional professors”, Professor Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Sagerer, Rektor of Bielefeld University, announced in October 2016. At that time a positive assessment for the financial situation until 2021 was evaluated. The university uses the funds to react to the highly risen number of students in the recent years. With the upcoming vocations of professors, the university wants to maintain the teaching quality and sharpen their profile of research at the same time.
Bielefeld University under Structural Restoration

The pollutant cleanup within the first building section of Bielefeld University goes on. Asbestos, PCB and artificial mineral fibres are primarily removed from the demarcated building site within the university. Since February 2016, over 40,000 square-meter of the first building lot are sanitized and gutted. Within the upcoming years, the State Ministry of Construction and the Building and Infrastructure Service NRW will modernize the main building in six different sites.

Freedom of Research

In July 2016, Bielefeld university protested against the handling of researchers in Turkey. Rector Sagerer declared: “Academic freedom cannot be restricted.” Moreover, it cannot be tolerated when in Turkey directors and deans of all universities are forced to resign, when researchers are not allowed to leave the country and when numerous university members are imprisoned.

Refugees Want to Study, But...

The Arbeitskreis Interkulturelles of Bielefeld 2000plus at Bielefeld University has presented the results of a survey among refugees in June 2016. The results show that refugees want to study, but often face great hurdles. The problems in particular are the acceptance of the university entrance qualification, German skills, missing financial resources and a lack of information.

Researchers From All Over the World Work at Bielefeld University

Bielefeld University is popular among international researchers and scientists. 2014 it was ranked 11th of 79 German higher education institutions in the Humboldt-ranking. Within the university, Professor Norbert Sewald holds a special record. Five guest researchers of the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation quest for medication for different diseases in his working group. They come from Argentina, Cameroon, India, Iran and Ethiopia.
111 Years of Arminia Bielefeld

In 2016, the local football club Arminia Bielefeld has turned 111 years old. On the occasion of the anniversary, there was lots to celebrate at the Schüco Arena on the 4th of June. Die Fantastischen Vier, The Boss Hoss and Wirtz shook the stadium. Beside the concerts, there were a lot of activities for all of the family, e.g. a goal-shooting contest.

English Drama Group Turns 40

The English Drama Group of Bielefeld University celebrated its 40th jubilee in 2016. In 1976, Martin Winks founded the English Drama Group to provide students with an active way to improve their English. Recently, the theater group is under the leadership of Angie Starczyk. In 2016 there were various performances, i. a. a stage adaption of the fantasy film “The Princess Bride”, Jane Austen’s classic “Pride and Prejudice”, and William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”.

THE Ranking: Bielefeld on 23rd rank

In the THE (Times Higher Education) Ranking “150 under 50”, Bielefeld University achieved the 23rd rank in worldwide competition. Only four other German universities were in a better position. 150 universities which exist less than 50 years were ranked. Especially in the fields of Industry Income and Research, Bielefeld University was ranked highly.

Link to Valuation

Culture at the University: Night of the Sounds

The Night of the Sounds (Nacht der Klänge) was once again a complete success in 2016. At the beginning of July, the main building and building X became the scene of the popular event of the Centre for Aesthetics of Bielefeld University. A guiding red line lead the visitors to overall 26 stations with music, dance and multimedia spectacles. Even seminar rooms and the swimming pool were used for this purpose. From Rock, Jazz and HipHop to Zumba and oriental dance, there was something to suit all tastes.
Two exciting semesters came and went at Bielefeld University. Summer term 2017 is already waiting. We hope for a thrilling summer with many new international students and of course you, our international Alumni. If you want to stay in touch, please visit our Facebook group. In addition to that, we also care for our group at Alumniportal Deutschland. Of course, we’re always looking forward to exciting stories and news on career development of international Alumni, which we can publish in our next newsletter. If you have any suggestions, ideas and proposals, we are glad to hear them!

Best regards from Bielefeld,
your Alumni International Team