Dear international alumni,

Two semesters have passed and many things have changed at Bielefeld University. Founded in 1969, the university celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and has also marked the occasion and brought a breath of fresh air into everyday university life through its brand new corporate design. Apart from that, lots of exciting activities and events took place in the past year. We have summarized the most pleasing news and most interesting highlights for you in this newsletter.

To celebrate Bielefeld University’s 50th jubilee a website has been setup with various related information, among the features is an interactive chronicle, which is a fitting tribute to the last 50 years and provides interesting information about the history of the university.
The art project "Ambulo - I walk"

In the Language Lounge of the Language Center, visitors can now admire a very special work of art. The installation by the Detmold artist Doris Lemberg-Hinsenhofen bears the title "Ambulo - I walk" and, in keeping with its name, tells the interesting and diverse migration stories of students and employees of Bielefeld University. "Bielefeld University is a meeting place for people from different countries and cultures. Every person has an individual story", says the artist. For this reason, volunteers have the opportunity to hand-write their own personal stories and experiences in their mother tongue on a Plexiglas disk and share them with others. The style may be as individual as the person behind it. Visitors will find a German or English translation on the reverse side and can look at the Plexiglas panes, which are hung in a way that they resemble a flock of birds or fish, in their entirety or deal specifically with the individual texts.

Campus Sport Show

On 31.01.2019, Bielefeld University’s Campus Sport Show took place again. Various groups from the Hochschulsport delighted the audience with their varied acts. Here you will find some impressions of the event:

13th Bielefeld Hörsaalslam

On 28.11.2018, one of the biggest poetry slam events in the entire German speaking area - the popular Bielefeld Hörsaalslam [lecture hall slam] - took place for the 13th time. Thanks to Campus TV, you have the opportunity to watch the entire Hörsaalslam here (in German):

The art project "Ambulo - I walk"
New double degree programmes

Since last winter semester, students have been able to enroll at Bielefeld University for the master's degree courses "InterAmerican Studies / Estudios InterAmericanos" in cooperation with the Universidad de Guadalajara and "Literature" in cooperation with the Sapienza Università di Roma. The new agreements give students the opportunity to earn an international double degree in both the German-Mexican and German-Italian programmes.

120th DSH certificate awarded

The 120th DSH certificate gained since the beginning of the preparatory German courses for refugees at Bielefeld University in 2016 was awarded on 07.09.2018. Passing the DSH exam is an important step for refugees who want to study in Germany. This year, 11 out of a total of 47 successful participants would like to use their certificate to study at Bielefeld University or at Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences.

Progress in German-Canadian cooperation

From 14 to 19 September 2018, representatives of Bielefeld University’s Faculties of Educational Sciences and Health Sciences travelled to the province of Alberta for the first binational workshop. While members of the Bielefeld Faculty of Educational Sciences worked with the Canadian partners of the University of Alberta on German-Canadian comparisons on diversity, inclusion and social justice, representatives of the Faculty of Health Sciences organized a workshop on nursing and health care challenges in East Westphalia-Lippe and Alberta. Likewise, the participants discussed future cooperation plans and the exchange of students and interns between educational institutions in both regions.
Foundation of the Medical Faculty

Since 01.10.2018, Bielefeld University’s Faculty of Medicine is officially in the foundation phase. During this phase, the planning of the necessary research, teaching and office space plays an important role. On this occasion, Bielefeld University commissioned a feasibility study that examines and evaluates various options. According to the university management, however, there are many reasons for a concept involving the construction of several buildings.

Inauguration of the new Z building

With the continuous development and the associated growth of Bielefeld University, new space is needed. For this reason, Bielefeld University officially opened the building Z with 120 offices on 2500 square metres on 07.11.18.

Exercise, play and sports during the breaks with the Aktivmobil Houbi

With the Aktivmobil Houbi (Hochschulsport Universität Bielefeld), students at Bielefeld University now have the opportunity to make their breaks more active and diversified. The Houbi offers a variety of exciting, free-of-charge game materials, so the breaks are certainly no longer boring. While you meet the Aktivmobil in the university hall during bad weather, you can find it on the meadow between the main building and the X-building on beautiful days. The Houbi is accompanied by instructors, who are also happy to assist students as game partners.

Bielefeld University’s new corporate design

As the focus shifted from the print media to digital communication in recent years, Bielefeld University developed a corporate design that is ideally suited for both the analogue and the digital world. The minimalist design convinces with its simplicity and seriousness, creating space for the diverse facets of Bielefeld University.

In line with the new comprehensive campus design, Bielefeld University also receives a new signage system.
Your Story – Matias from Argentina

I decided to study at Bielefeld University, because I saw it as a lifetime chance.

My favourite characteristics of Bielefeld University are the evaluation system, the way classes are taught here and the opportunity to meet so many different people.

In Bielefeld, I stayed in a simple apartment. Thanks to the support of the university and the Studierendenwerk, I could easily find suitable accommodation. I really liked the woods near Wertherstraße, the Sparrenburg and the Siegfriedplatz. In my free time, I often had parties with the Erasmus students, but I also enjoyed running through the woods, reading and travelling.

It was also easy for me to connect with locals. Or at least I was lucky enough to meet really nice people. For those reasons, I would definitely call Bielefeld a home away from home. It is a very nice city, but also very calm just like my hometown.

My stay at Bielefeld University also helped me to improve my German skills. The language was difficult at the beginning, but staying here has driven me to become better at it so that I can now have fluid conversations. I am very happy about that. Besides that, I had the chance to practice my English again, which was good, but a bit rusty. Apart from my language development, this experience was also beneficial to my personal growth. I feel much more confident now and have gained new perspectives on the world.

I would encourage everyone considering studying at Bielefeld University to give it a try because it is a worthwhile experience.

What about you?
We would love to know what you have been up to. The accomplishments, occupational and academic postings, going ons and lives of our alumni are of great interest to us. Your journey with us and as members of the Bielefeld University family does not end with your departure or graduation. If you have any news to share with us, we would be glad to hear it and share it with the rest of our alumni community. Please send all information to alumni.international@uni-bielefeld.de.

We would like to thank Matias for his great report and wish him all the best for the future!