Dear international Alumni,

once again, two unforgettable semesters at Bielefeld University have come to an end. We have summarized the most pleasing news and the most exciting highlights for you in this newsletter.

Establishment of a medical faculty at Bielefeld University

According to media reports, the establishment of a medical faculty at Bielefeld University is in planning. "Medical education at Bielefeld University would improve medical care: it is easier to keep trained doctors in the region than to bring them to Ostwestfalen-Lippe. Bielefeld University also has excellent prerequisites for the establishment of a medical faculty through a large number of cooperations and a close integration with the health region OWL", emphasizes Professor Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Sagerer, Rector of Bielefeld University. While the focus should lie on general medicine in order to ensure medical care in the region, research fields such as medical care and old age, medicine and health as well as digitization in medicine should also be of great importance in the new faculty.

Bielefeld CeBiTec team successful at the international iGEM competition

Bielefeld's CeBiTec team was awarded a gold medal and two prizes at the international iGEM competition in Boston (USA), an international competition in the field of synthetic biology. The 14 Bielefeld students have incorporated new information into the gene code of bacteria, thus enabling them to generate special proteins that can facilitate medical therapies.
Opening of the new UniShop

On 1 December 2017, the new UniShop opened in the central university hall. At the former post office, visitors can now look forward to a large selection of creative university merchandise and gift items. The offers range from textiles with the university emblem to notebooks, toiletry bags, cups and snow globes.

Bielefeld University signs the Magna Charta Universitatum

In August, Angelika Epple, Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Diversity, signed the Magna Charta Universitatum on behalf of Bielefeld University. By signing this manifesto, Bielefeld University agrees to abide by fundamental principles such as academic freedom and institutional autonomy. ‘The goal of this document is to strengthen the traditional values of universities and promote strong ties between those in Europe. (...) Hence, signing the Magna Charta is a logical step for us as an international university.’ stresses Angelika Epple.

Hajime Hoshi Prize 2017 goes to biotechnologist from Bielefeld University's Faculty of Chemistry

The biotechnologist Keiko Oike from the Faculty of Chemistry has been awarded the Hajime Hoshi Prize 2017 by the Deutsch-Japanische Gesellschaft Bielefeld [German-Japanese Society] (DJG) for her outstanding scientific achievements as well as her commitment to the care and integration of Japanese guest students.

Congratulations!
Christmas atmosphere in Bielefeld's city centre

From 23 November to 30 December 2017, Bielefeld’s Christmas market created a cozy Christmas atmosphere. The wide range of drinks, food and creative gift items as well as the varied Christmas market programme once again enchanted visitors of all ages.

Bielefeld student in final selection for the Deutscher Studienpreis

Nadine Steckling from the Bielefeld School of Public Health made it to the final selection for the Deutscher Studienpreis by the Körber Stiftung this year. The award honours young scientists whose doctoral theses are of particular relevance. Congratulations!

International Summer German Courses at Bielefeld University

Once again, students from all over the world came together at Bielefeld University to take part in the Summer German courses offered by PunktUm in August. In addition to the varied course and supporting programme, the exciting leisure programme made the stay in Bielefeld an unforgettable experience for many international students. The Summer German courses offered the participants not only the opportunity to improve their general knowledge of German as well as their technical language, but at the same time gave them an insight into studying at Bielefeld University and let them discover the diversity of the city of Bielefeld with all its attractions.
Your Story

Since your personal experiences and impressions contribute significantly to the community spirit and the colourful diversity of Bielefeld University, it is now time to let you have a say. In this issue, Ecenur from Turkey reports on her stay at Bielefeld University.

"I decided to study at Bielefeld University, because a friend of mine recommended me this university after her Erasmus stay. I also heard that Bielefeld University is a renowned university in the field of sociology.

Bielefeld University offers many opportunities, both academically and socially, such as giving your own presentations as part of the lectures as well as numerous sports and leisure activities. In addition to deepening my knowledge of German, I was also able to improve my speaking and listening skills in English during my stay at Bielefeld University. In my spare time, I travelled alone or with friends. My favourite places in Bielefeld were the Sparrenburg and the small streets near Jahnplatz. Living and studying alone in a foreign country was a challenge for me. Thanks to my family and friends, I was able to master this challenge. This experience gave me more confidence."

We would like to thank Ecenur for her great report and wish her all the best for the future!

The summer semester 2018 is just around the corner. 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 are 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