



Communicators: Explaining

Research in an Understandable and

Entertaining Way | Entrepreneur:

Burkart Knospe Supports His Alma

Mater | Athlete: Christina Obergföll Is

Training for the Olympics | Private

Secretary: Georg Gänswein Describes

His Work at the Vatican | 2012

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Burkart Knospe, Chairman of the University Council



Christina Obergföll, world-class javelin thrower



Georg Gänswein, personal secretary to Benedict XVI



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Photo: Schilling

Dear Alumni of the University of Freiburg,

As always, your alma mater is on the move: In our Institutional Strategy, which is at the heart of Freiburg's proposal in the second round of the Excellence Initiative, we describe how we envisage our future development – as an exemplary, internationally competitive comprehensive university for the 21st century.

The areas in which we are strongest are those in which various disciplines intersect. We thus want to bring researchers from different fields together and give them the freedom they need to conduct their world-class research. The basis of our strategy is the idea of the “new universitas,” which integrates the faculties and disciplines into a network spanning the entire university. This approach is particularly evident at our research centers, at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, and at the newly established University College Freiburg, whose purpose is to strengthen research-based teaching beyond the bounds of individual fields of study.

Just as important are the areas in which the university intersects with society. This is happening, for instance, at the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Center and at the new Freiburg Academy of Science and Technology, which develops continuing education courses and forges links between our researchers and private enterprises. In addition, the entire university has the task of presenting our research to the public – with new formats that don't just explain research in a way in which the general public can understand it but also allow it to be experienced first hand. The cover story of this magazine will give you an example of how this can work.

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine – and stay in contact!

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Jochen Schiewer
Rector of the University of Freiburg

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RESEARCH FOR ALL

“How Many Trees Are There in

How the University of Freiburg Communicates Research in an Understandable and Entertaining Way



The growth rings reveal how old a tree is, explains Arno Mattes at the Freiburg Science Fair. But the young journalist would rather know why the Black Forest is called the Black Forest.

Photo: Kunz

Heat builds up under the ceiling. Near the exit, where the Freiburg summer is pumping even more humid July air into the big tent, 40 people are crowded around a table. A television crew is focusing a camera on the crowd. Just one step more – and the 50-centimeter-tall robot Nao sets his foot on the last step of the wooden spiral staircase. A triumph. The robot raises both arms in the air with a whirl. “Wow, he can walk all by himself,” exclaims a little boy with astonishment and claps his hands. His father scratches his chin and shakes his head in amazement. There’s always a big crowd at the stand of the Department of Microsystems Engineering, where scientists are demonstrating the Faculty of Engineering’s star attraction. They answer questions all day – posed by adults and children alike: “Can he play soccer, too?,” “How does he know what direction to walk in?”

Once every two years the University of Freiburg invites the public to experience research up close and personal at its Science Fair. In June 2011 the Cathedral Square was transformed from its usual function as a farmer’s market into a gigantic campus with over 12,000 visitors. Where farmers usually sell

fresh vegetables or hot sausages, scientists presented their research projects and fields of study at over 50 stands – from biology to mathematics to neuroscience.

Science Fair: Campus on Cathedral Square

The University of Freiburg demonstrates that research is not just a matter for dusty old scholars who hardly ever venture to leave their ivory tower. The exchange between researchers and the general public brings society forward, provides orientation, and motivates people to question ingrained ways of thinking, says Prof. Dr. Heiner Schanz, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of the University of Freiburg. And this means translating the specialized knowledge of the researcher into a generally comprehensible form: “We are all part of the university – as seekers, knowers, thinkers, teachers, decision-makers, and tax payers. We should thus also all be aware of what we’re conducting research on.”

Freiburg students conduct interviews with researchers from morning to evening on the Science Fair stage in the middle of Cathedral Square.

the World?”

Where do religious symbols like the Cross or the Star of David come from? What happens in our brains when we have to find our way around an unfamiliar city? The ultimate test for the researchers is a question and answer session broadcast live on university radio in which they have to field questions from a group of first graders. Arno Mattes, a forest scientist at the Institute of Forest Growth, has brought an enormous wooden disk with him. He explains how you can tell how old a tree is by counting the rings. But the cub reporters are interested in other things: “How many trees are there in the world?,” asks a little girl and holds the microphone up to the scientist’s face with both hands. Mattes chuckles, nonplussed by the unexpected question: If the population is young, he ponders, a hectare can support over 10,000 trees, but it can only support 100 to 200 old trees. Baden-Württemberg has 1.4 million hectares of forests. He could attempt to provide a rough estimation – but what would be the point of confronting the child with such inconceivable numbers? “Do you know what’s much easier to count? The species of trees that grow in Baden-Württemberg,” answers Mattes. “We actually don’t have that many kinds of trees here. Spruces are everywhere. In the Swabian Alb there are mostly beeches, the Rhine Valley has a lot of oaks, and in the Black Forest you also have the fir, which even grows naturally here.” The girl considers for a few seconds, and then asks: “Why is the Black Forest called the Black Forest?”

Mattes’ actual job is to teach master’s students of forest science, but he is used to answering questions like these: When he worked at ForstBW, the former state forest agency of Baden-Württemberg, part of his job involved taking school classes on forest excursions and explaining to them how the cycle of nature works. Moreover, as the father of a five-year-old daughter and a ten-year-old son he often has to explain abstract concepts from his discipline to little children in daily life. An example of this is the squirrel game: One group, the squirrels, hides nuts in the forest, while another group, the robbers, tries to find and collect them to eat during the winter months. If the robbers and the squirrels both miss one of the nuts, it can grow into a tree. “There are wonderful forest education concepts that can be used to teach even elementary

school children a whole lot about the foundations of their environment,” says the forest scientist – and they can be taught in the great outdoors.

Surprising Science: Research on the Internet

The insight into research offered by the University of Freiburg’s research platform Surprising Science, by contrast, is of a virtual nature. The portal went online in 2012. Colorful spherical links float like atoms on a chain against the gray background of the site. When one positions one’s mouse over one of the links, a speech balloon reveals what’s behind it – for instance Icelandic sagas or protection against radiation. The platform presents individual research findings and special features on an overarching theme from the perspective of different fields. The special feature on age, for example, explores the following questions: How does Goethe illustrate the process of aging in his texts? What effect does age have on linguistic abilities? And how is it possible to conceive of time in physical terms? “We want to emphasize connections between academic research and developments that are important for society at large,” says Annette Kollfrath-Persch, coordinator of the Surprising Science editorial staff. She researches new topics and pays visits to established professors as well as aspiring young researchers. “For example, we reported on a student who was conducting research into the language of youths. What counts is the quality of the research.”



The research portal Surprising Science presents the university’s latest research findings with texts, images, and videos.

INTERVIEW

Providing Guidance on the Path from Novice to Expert

Silke Weiß Advises Teachers to Take On the Perspective of Their Students



Silke Weiß is director of the Office for Teaching and Learning of the University of Freiburg

The team at the Office for Teaching and Learning of the University of Freiburg gives teachers tips on improving their teaching skills – whether in seminars, lecture courses, or workshops. Rimma Gerenstein asked the director of the office what constitutes good teaching.

uni'alumni: Ms. Weiß, what kinds of concerns do teachers usually come to you with?
Silke Weiß: The main goal of teachers is to optimize their courses, improve their own teaching skills, and thus provide better learning support for their students. At a large university, however, the concrete concerns of teachers can be quite diverse. They range from putting together a syllabus, preparing a lesson plan, integrating research into teaching, and encouraging active participation by using a variety of teaching methods to advising students and developing new forms of examinations.

Since she studied humanities herself, Kollefrath-Persch often has to turn to reference works when writing articles on complex developments in medicine or microsystems engineering. But she views this as an advantage: "It's often the people who aren't from the field who ask the right questions – namely about relationships and the larger context. That makes the text easy to understand and interesting for readers." The portal makes use of the many channels and formats enabled by Web 2.0. Articles are often flanked by videos or other media, for instance, and researchers keep readers up to date on developments in ongoing projects in a blog.

Science Slam: Research in Ten Minutes

The bartender shoves freshly tapped beers over the bar amid snippets of loud conversation and laughter. The lights go on, the public claps, hoots, and whistles. Four men step onto the stage. They will be performing this evening at the MensaBar on Rempartstraße. Stand-up comedy? No. Music? No. What then? Science.

The first German science slam was held at the Darmstadt University of Technology in 2006. The idea soon spread to Berlin, Göttingen, and Braunschweig, and since 2010 it has also become popular in Freiburg. The format is based on the poetry

slam, in which young poets try to win over the audience's favor with entertaining rhymes and verses. In a science slam, on the other hand, each researcher has ten minutes to present his or her project – making it understandable for a general audience and as entertaining as possible. At the end of the performance, the audience gives the participants points and chooses the winner.

"Linguistics is a remarkable discipline," begins Dr. Martin Hilpert – whose short presentation on linguistic change will later be chosen as the winner amidst much applause. "It combines the dryness and technicality of the natural sciences with the inutility and pointlessness of the humanities." While studying letters from England written over 500 years ago with a colleague, Hilpert noticed that there were many different ways of spelling the same verb. The linguists developed a mathematical model that can predict what spelling an author will choose with 95 percent accuracy. Hilpert asks the question that's probably on the tip of everyone's lips himself: "So what's the point of all this when there are actually more important problems in the world?"

The linguist sees the science slam as a kind of reality check. It allows him to test whether scholars from other fields understand what he's investigating in the language lab – and to learn whether

How can teachers communicate knowledge in an understandable way?

By taking on the perspective of the students. Teachers are experts in their discipline, while students are still in the process of learning it. The goal of teaching should be to provide guidance to students on the path from novice to expert. This involves continually determining where the students are located on this path, what they are interested in, and what prior knowledge and experiences they possess and can bring to bear in the course. It is important to give students the opportunity to take active part in the process of academic exchange and also allow them to help shape it.

Does making content understandable mean simplifying it or lowering the academic level?

I doubt that the academic level suffers when a teacher conveys complex information in an understandable form. Understandable means that the students are given easier access to the information. One should never forget that a course of study can't be completed within the space of a semester. Students acquire their knowledge and the ability to

engage in academic work continually over the course of several years. It is thus necessary to begin at a less complex level and then increase the complexity as the students develop their abilities. Incidentally, teachers themselves are often surprised at the quality of work students are capable of in seemingly simplified learning environments.

What is your impression of the level of teaching in Freiburg?

On the whole, my impression is very positive. Professors at the University of Freiburg aren't just interested in being good researchers; they also want to be good teachers. The quality of instruction is becoming more and more important. The university's recent success in the "Excellent Teaching" competition and the "Quality Pact for Teaching" testifies to this fact.

they find it interesting. "As an arts scholar you often find yourself on the defensive. You have to explain what utility your research has." And yet, linguistic change is a topic that is relevant for everyone who has ever thought about whether dialects have a grammar that is less complex or whether Schiller's German is dying out because more and more "service points" are cropping up at German train stations. "Linguists don't say that one variant is better or worse than another," stresses Hilpert. "Change is the natural state of language." In order to illustrate this, he shows the audience a

diagram on which words are dancing like little balls on a timeline that covers more than 200 years.

The linguist doesn't think that popular events like science slams pose a threat to the integrity of research. "Admittedly though, the format cuts both ways: When you do an entertaining and witty presentation on your project that lasts ten minutes, you might leave the impression that science is always laid-back and to the point." This isn't always true. Sometimes researchers have to follow paths without knowing whether their findings will



Are Anglicisms ruining the beautiful German language? Linguist Martin Hilpert demonstrates why linguistic change is important at the Science Slam.
Photo: Jost



Successful format: Professors lecture to a broad audience at the Saturday Morning Lectures. Photo: Bender

ever be of any use at all. “As you can imagine, that does not look very good in a headline. But it would be nice if society also had more understanding for this necessary part of science.”

Saturday Morning Lectures: From the Farmer’s Market to the Lecture Hall

The University of Freiburg is even full of life on the weekend. Each Saturday morning at 11:15 a.m. knowledge-hungry citizens gather on campus to learn about the big bang, the Germans and the forest, mathematics, or the financial crisis. The Saturday Morning Lectures are aimed at an audience that doesn’t usually attend lectures, such as school students, retirees, or people who never went to college. Each lecture series runs for a semester and tackles a current topic from various perspectives. The university launched the program in 2006 in cooperation with the Freiburg Adult Education Center. The lecture series are now even available as audio recordings on the Internet. The program is practically one of a kind in Germany. “I actually had the idea a long time ago,” says Prof. Dr. Günter Schnitzler, director of the Studium Generale Program. “We wanted to open ourselves to the city, invite people to visit us regularly.” The plan worked: People come straight from the farmer’s market on Cathedral Square with their shopping bags. For many of them the lectures have become a Saturday morning ritual.

The professors revise their lectures for the program to make them suitable for a general audience, say Schnitzler and his colleague Dr. Jens Awe. In the beginning, some of them just recycled lectures they had used before for regular students. “That sometimes became a bit awkward.” Today the speakers embellish the lectures and reinforce their arguments by explaining figures with diagrams,

showing clips from films, or playing excerpts from pieces of music. They also adapt their language to the mixed audience: no obscure facts in convoluted sentences, no polysyllabic jargon if a more common expression will fit the bill just as well.

The most successful lecture series so far dealt with myths, attracting an average of 600 participants every Saturday. So many people wanted to attend Bernhard Zimmermann’s lecture “The Myth in Greek Antiquity” that he had to hold it a second time. The professor of classical philology chose a different focus for his second lecture: “I didn’t have a complete manuscript with me. I find it more important to keep an eye on the audience when giving a lecture. Then I can see what the people find interesting or where they start yawning in boredom.” But what do non-experts find interesting about Greek myths? The philologist looked for parallels to everyday life – for instance in colloquial language. “Everyone knows expressions like ‘a Herculean task’ or ‘Ariadne’s thread.’ So I used them as a starting point: What are the stories behind these expressions? And what impact and function did they have for the ancient Greeks?” Afterwards, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. Zimmermann was overwhelmed by the response: Around 50 participants emailed him to ask him for tips on further reading. Many of them visited him during his office hours to ask about things like how Goethe came up with the idea of writing a play about Iphigenia or what kind of relationship Oedipus had with his mother. Moreover, he recognizes some of the faces from his Saturday morning lecture in his regular lectures – the best compliment of all.

Rimma Gerenstein

LINKS

- » www.uni-freiburg.de/forschung/wissenschaftsmarkt
- » www.surprising-science.de
- » www.hochschuldidaktik.uni-freiburg.de
- » www.studiumgenerale.uni-freiburg.de/vortragsreihen/samstags-uni-ws2011-12
- » www.scienceslamfreiburg.blogspot.com

CULINARY CAPERS: MARCUS FLATTEN

Extra Sauce, Please!

Field of study

Biology

Degree

Diplom

Current position

Founder and director of the Hamburg public relations agency "Mann beißt Hund," whose clients also include universities. In this respect, I have remained true to the university.

Favorite food at the cafeteria

I couldn't really say. I like almost everything. But definitely something with a lot of sauce. My cafeteria was the one on the natural sciences campus. The entrance hall on the lower floor a big, dark bunker, always packed. The restroom



Candlelight lunch: A little romance in the cafeteria. Photo: Kunz

walls full of perverse scribbles. But I liked being there all the same. More exciting than hanging out at the Institute of Biology on Schänzlestraße. In the summer I often went to the cafeteria just to sit on the steps and meet people. I also liked the little cafe, yummy sweets, and orange plastic chairs. And everyone could smoke wherever they wanted to. That's how it was, wasn't it? Separate stairs for the daily special and stew, stand in line on the stairs, then show your meal token and look for a free table on the gallery.

Strangest occurrence at the cafeteria

She was named Nicola. We had danced the tango on the Blue Bridge. It was summer, like so often in Freiburg. I was young and in love, and we had a date to eat at

the cafeteria – her cafeteria on Rempartstraße. On the way I bought a candlestick and a few candles. Once we had fought through the crowd and found a nice place, I took everything out of the bag and lit the candles. Candlelight lunch! She found it great. And so did I.

So dig in!



Marcus Flatten often went to the cafeteria to meet friends.

Photo: private

MY FLAT: PETER VOLLMER

Bachelor Pad

"I shared an apartment with a classmate. It was in a beautiful old building with a stuccoed ceiling and hardwood floors in the center of Freiburg. The rent was cheap, because it had an awkward floor plan: To get to the bathroom, you had to walk through my room. This led to many a gallant scene, since my roommate was something of a ladies' man and often had girls he had met on campus over for the night.

Bohemians from the 1920's

Our apartment was a bachelor pad in the truest sense of the word. We didn't have anything resembling a cleaning plan. We didn't wash dishes after using them but when we needed them again. We felt and acted like bohemians from the 1920's, and we threw a whole bunch

of legendary parties. Unfortunately, I can't for the life of me recall any details. Of course, our kitchen usually resembled what you would imagine the inside of a glass recycling container might look like.

The good times ended when our landlord canceled our lease because he supposedly needed it for his own use and my roommate switched to another university. I moved into an apartment with strangers who were living together just for economical reasons. The kitchen was clean because it was never used, and we never threw any parties there. This allowed me to finally devote myself properly to my studies, but I always thought back with nostalgia on the good old days in my bachelor pad."



The cabaret artist Peter Vollmer studied German language and literature and history at the University of Freiburg from 1984 to 1987. He also launched his career during these years, forming the cabaret act Duo Vital with Thomas Reis and winning the University Culture Promotion Award. In fall 2011 he published the book *Wenn Männer zu sehr 40 werden*.

Photo: private

MEET ME IN FREIBURG ...

Same Place, Different Times

When you look at something a second time, you often discover something new. The editorial staff of uni'alumni collected old photographs taken at especially well-known or popular places in Freiburg. Our photographer Thomas Kunz visited these locations again in fall 2011 and took shots from the same perspective.



My, how hairstyles change: Students in the Audimax at a lecture by the Brazilian archbishop Dom Hélder Câmara on 23 June 1972 and at the orientation for beginning students of the Faculty of Law in winter semester 2011/12. Photo: State Archives of Baden-Württemberg



The Kaiser-Joseph-Straße witnessed countless demonstrations in the 1960's and 1970's. No more. Now it's almost exclusively the terrain of shoppers. Photo: Freiburg City Archives, M 75/1





Students may come and go, but he remains: the Greek poet Homer at the entrance to Collegiate Building I. Photo: Freiburg City Archives, M 75/1



If you want to eat, you've got to stand in line – whether in the cellar of Collegiate Building I as in the 1950's or in the cafeteria on Rempartstraße today. Photo: Freiburg University Archives



Thanks to the work of the excavators, there isn't much left of the old University Library. It is scheduled to reopen in fall 2013. Photo: Mesenhöll





The Holy Father's Snowplow

Pope Benedict XVI's Visit to Freiburg Was a Homecoming for Georg Gänswein

Georg Gänswein, born on 30 July 1956 in Waldshut on the High Rhine, grew up in Riedern, a village in the southern Black Forest. In 1976 he enrolled at the Freiburg Seminary. He studied Catholic theology in Freiburg and Rome and was ordained as a priest in 1984. In 1993 he completed his PhD in canon law in Munich. Gänswein's dissertation on Church membership according to the Second Vatican Council is regarded as the standard work on the subject. After stints in Freiburg and Rome, he joined the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, whose then prefect Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger appointed him as his personal secretary in 2003. Since 2005 Georg Gänswein has fulfilled the same function for Pope Benedict XVI. In his free time he enjoys playing tennis and skiing. Photo: private



No one is as close to the Pope as he is: Dr. Georg Gänswein, priest from the Archdiocese of Freiburg, is the private secretary of Benedict XVI. Nicolas Scherger asked him what his office means to him and what he remembers about his years as a student in Freiburg.

personal encounters, and the Pope's speech at the Concert House. Pope Benedict XVI immediately struck a chord with the citizens of Freiburg.

You studied at the University of Freiburg. What event from this time shaped you the most?

It wasn't so much a concrete event as a chain of events. As far as academics are concerned, I immersed myself in philosophy and theology. Various lectures, theological discussions, and many heated debates with classmates have become deeply ingrained in my memory. On a personal level, life in the Catholic boarding house, the Collegium Borromaeum, had a lasting impact on my development. In addition, I didn't neglect the great educators "nature" and "culture" either.

Do you still maintain contact with old acquaintances in Freiburg?

Yes, of course. I am and remain a priest of the Archdiocese of Freiburg.

Freiburg theology professors are known for voicing criticism, most recently concerning the reform of the Catholic Church. Have you been following these debates?

Asking and grappling with burning questions is the professor's daily bread. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to follow Freiburg's contribution to the current reform debate in the Church very closely. However, the little that has reached my ears has been more chaff than wheat.

uni'alumni: Monsignore Gänswein, you accompanied Pope Benedict XVI on his trip to Germany in September 2011. What was the visit to Freiburg like for you?

Georg Gänswein: Freiburg, the last leg of the Holy Father's trip to Germany, was a homecoming for me: I'll never forget the cordial greeting, the almost Mediterranean enthusiasm, the awe-inspiring liturgical ceremonies, the many

What image would you use to describe a typical day at your job?

A snowplow, blazing a trail through the glut of tasks in the Pope's daily life. One of my most important responsibilities is to make sure that the daily work of the

HISTORICAL GREATS: HANNAH ARENDT

Philosopher with a Passion

Holy Father is and remains livable. What this means concretely is coordinating and organizing the flood of requests for appointments, mail, audiences, trips, etc. in such a way that the Holy Father is not crushed by it all. In addition, I accompany him at all important meetings.

Do you miss pastoral work?

Yes I do.

What experience with Benedict XVI are you especially fond of looking back on?

The trips are always special experiences, even though they are stressful and exhausting.

You were born in the Black Forest but have now lived for many years in Rome. What do you consider home?

My home is where my roots are: in the Black Forest. My years in Rome have of course allowed me to broaden my horizons considerably. My perspective has become broader, greater.

Do you have a tip for alumni of the University of Freiburg on what they shouldn't miss on a trip to the Vatican?

Every visitor should go to St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square, which I see daily from my office, and the Vatican's museums are also a must. I only give insiders' tips in person.



Hannah Arendt studied at the University of Freiburg in 1926/27.

Photo: University of Oldenburg

She achieved world fame with her analysis of totalitarianism: Hannah Arendt is one of the most important political philosophers of the 20th century. She was born in 1906 in Hanover and grew up in a secular Jewish family that had a bookcase with the works of the world's great philosophers. Even before leaving home for college, she had already read Immanuel Kant and Karl Jaspers. Starting in 1924 she studied philosophy, theology, and Greek in Marburg.

A Secluded Life in Freiburg

She soon entered into a love affair with her teacher Martin Heidegger, but only in secret. He remembered her as the love of his life, his muse, writes Arendt's biographer Ingeborg Gleichauf on the unequal pair. When Heidegger, a married man and a father, saw his reputation as an upstanding citizen endangered, Arendt was forced

to continue her studies in 1926/27 with Heidegger's teacher Edmund Husserl in Freiburg. She lived a very secluded life in Freiburg, meditating on her years in Marburg. In 1928 she completed her PhD under Karl Jaspers at the University of Heidelberg.

After the National Socialists seized power in 1933, she immigrated to France. In 1940 she was sent to the Gurs internment camp but managed to escape four weeks later. She ended up fleeing to New York, where she died in 1975 as an American citizen. In the 1960's she attracted a lot of publicity as a reporter for the magazine *The New Yorker* at the trial of the former SS Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. In the subtitle of the book collecting her reports on the trial, she coined the controversial phrase "the banality of evil."

Eva Opitz



ALUMNI PRIZE: JAN DRAHEIM

Selling Tickets in a Duck Costume



Alumni Prize for a rubber duck race: Jan Draheim was recognized for his charitable work.

Yellow ducks, big success: Jan Draheim, research assistant at the Laboratory for Microactuators, helped organize the first duck race on the Dreisam River. The proceeds were donated to the Clinic Clowns at the Freiburg University Medical Center. Draheim was awarded the Alumni Prize of the Faculty of Engineering for his efforts. Nicolas Scherger spoke with him.

Mr. Draheim, why did you decide to hold a duck race of all things?

Jan Draheim: I am a member of the Round Table Freiburg, an organization of young men who help the needy. Round Table organizes duck races in a lot of cities. So we thought: why not here?

How did you prepare for the race?

We dressed up in duck costumes and took part in Freiburg's Carnival Parade to advertise the race. We dressed up in the same costumes on weekends and sold lottery tickets in the pedestrian zone, one for each duck. We found sponsors to donate prizes for the 200 fastest ducks. Finally, we tested the course and stuck lottery numbers to the bottom of 7,000 rubber ducks by hand.

Was it worth all the effort?

The public reaction was very positive. The weather cooperated, the audience was in a good mood, and we sold 2,000 more lottery tickets than we had expected. We succeeded in raising 12,500 euros for the Clinic Clowns. We're planning on holding the race again in 2012.

How did you manage to win the Alumni Prize?

I sold a lot of lottery tickets to acquaintances, for instance to my boss Prof. Dr. Ulrike Wallrabe at the Faculty of Engineering. She nominated me for the prize.

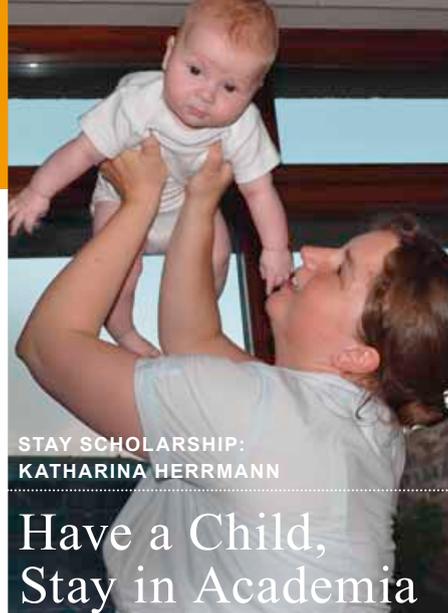
» www.entenrennen.rt25.de

ALUMNI PRIZES

The booster association Alumni Freiburg awards prizes at the faculties for outstanding student achievements. The prize may honor outstanding final theses or charitable work. Each faculty receives 1,500 euros for its alumni prizes.



Yellow tide: 7,000 plastic ducks participated in Freiburg's first duck race on the Dreisam.
Photo: Pauly



STAY SCHOLARSHIP:
KATHARINA HERRMANN

Have a Child, Stay in Academia

Child or career? As the recipient of a STAY Scholarship, Katharina Herrmann has the best of both worlds. Photo: Nickweiler

Nelli follows closely with her blue eyes as mama works at the desk. "The little one dictates the pace," says her mother Dr. Katharina Herrmann. The art historian is receiving financial support in the form of a STAY Scholarship – and is thus in the position to continue her academic career while raising a family.

The University of Freiburg, the New University Endowment, and Alumni Freiburg e.V. offer STAY scholarships to outstanding female researchers from all disciplines. The so-called bridge scholarships may be awarded for a period of up to twelve months. The goal is to give female postdoctoral researchers extra time to write a proposal for their habilitation thesis and apply for long-term funding.

The University Profits, Too

Katherine Herrmann knows how much time it takes to put together a proposal for a habilitation project. "The more convincingly you can describe each individual step of your project, the better chances you'll have securing funding," says the 36-year-old scholarship recipient. She finds it important to enable women to continue their academic career after completing their doctorate – for the researchers themselves as well as for the university, which would otherwise lose academic resources. "I view it as a sign of appreciation for the quality of my research if the university doesn't want to lose me."

Christina Nickweiler

» www.gleichstellung.uni-freiburg.de/news/Stipendien



Meet, discuss, make contacts: Young researchers need a forum for academic and personal exchange. Photo: Bender

CAMPAIGN

A Lounge for Young Researchers

Alumni Freiburg e.V. Wants to Support Early-Stage Researchers at the University of Freiburg

A meeting place that promotes academic and personal exchange between young researchers at the University of Freiburg and contributes to their sense of community – this is an initiative the board of directors of the booster association Alumni Freiburg would like to support. Your donation can help make this project at your alma mater a reality.

Today's doctoral candidates are tomorrow's professors and Nobel laureates. The worldwide competition to attract the best PhD students is also a matter of cardinal significance for the university's future. Young researchers – especially those applying on an international scale – want to earn their doctorate at a university that doesn't just offer them the opportunity to conduct top-level research but also provides them excellent services. And it is often the services that aren't directly related to doctoral studies that

are the pivotal factors in their choice of a university.

Room for Researchers of all Disciplines, Levels, and Nationalities

The University of Freiburg traditionally offers its doctoral candidates a lot and would like to offer them even more. The newly established Freiburg Academic Coaching, Training, and Services (FACTS), for instance, is the counterpart of the Student Service Center for early-stage researchers: a central department that unites all services – such as those concerning scholarships, promotional programs, and continuing education. FACTS is located at Erbprinzenstraße 12, where there is also a Welcome Center that provides support for international visiting scholars during their stay in Freiburg. FACTS would like to renovate a seminar room on the

BOOSTER ASSOCIATION ALUMNI FREIBURG E.V

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second floor of the building into a lounge for researchers from different disciplines, on different steps of the career ladder, and of different nationalities. The board of directors of Alumni Freiburg e.V. would be very grateful if you could support this initiative – and help make your alma mater even more attractive for up-and-coming young scholars.

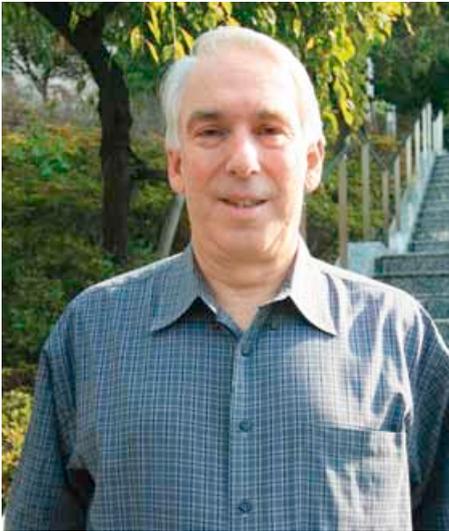


The university would like to renovate this seminar room into a new meeting place for junior researchers. Photo: Kunz



ALUMNI ABROAD: JEFFREY HIMMEL

Steel Entrepreneur and Club President



Jeffrey Himmel is a contact for former Freiburg students. Photo: private

Jeffrey Himmel still profits today from the “lifelong gifts” he received from the University of Freiburg. In the spirit of the American tradition of giving back, he wants to offer his support to his alma mater. As the president of the Alumni Organization for University of Freiburg in North America, founded in May 2011, he is the main contact for former Freiburg students in the USA.

Himmel spent the academic years 1975/76 and 1977/78 at the University of Freiburg within the context of his studies in history, political science, and economics at Connecticut College, USA. Today he works in the steel industry and owns two steel treatment plants in Ohio and Texas. He is fond of looking back on his studies and the Freiburg way of life: “Freiburg is a special place for students. Its location, its possibilities, and its professors are of the highest quality and were pivotal in making us into what

we are today.” He has good memories of hikes in the Black Forest, outings to Alsace, regional wines and beers, fresh bread from the bakery around the corner, and other culinary specialties. Lifelong friendships from this time strengthen his bond to the city.

Newsletter, Networking Platform, Mentoring Program

The USA Alumni Club offers a regional newsletter, a networking platform, and a mentoring program for students who come to the University of Freiburg to study. All Freiburg alumni in the USA are welcome to participate in the club’s social and cultural activities and continuing education initiatives.

Matthias Kuta

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/alumni_netzwerk

BETWEEN THE LINES: MARTIN KOSCHORKE

“Don’t Try to Change Your Partner”

Why was Christ’s birthplace changed to Bethlehem, although there is only scant historical evidence for this location? Why do couples need help more often when they know each other well? Martin Koschorke’s books cover a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from a new interpretation of the Christmas story to pointers on dealing with the annoyances of daily life to advice on solving problems in relationships.

“He likes things to be chaotic, she prefers order. She wants to go out on the town, he’d rather stay at home,” writes Koschorke. When we are in love, we tend to overlook our partner’s

shortcomings, but what seemed so interesting in the beginning can turn out to be a big annoyance in daily life. But all attempts to change our partner are in vain. Rather, the only principle one should abide by is: “Accept your partner as he or she is.”

Koschorke doesn’t engage in mind games. He argues historically and scientifically. With his appealing titles, humorous digressions, and ironic cartoons, the theologian and sociologist proves that self-help books can offer a healthy mix of seriousness and humor just like novels can.

Rosa-Maria Gschwendtner

Photo: private



Martin Koschorke studied sociology and statistics at the University of Freiburg and theology, philosophy, and psychology in Berlin, Heidelberg, Bonn, Paris, and Cambridge. He completed training courses in several forms of therapy and has worked as a marriage counselor, a family therapist, and a supervisor. He makes use of his experiences as an author – and his latest book, *Wie Sie mit Ihrem Partner glücklich werden, ohne ihn zu ändern! Führerschein für Paare*, a book for couples that argues that people should not try to change their partner, has made him known to a broad public in Germany.

PORTRAIT



Learning without End

DAAD Secretary General
Dorothea Rüländ Has Spent
Time in Many Different Countries

Dorothea Rüländ's work has led her to all of the continents. When preparing for a trip to a new country, she doesn't just study the numbers and facts but also familiarizes herself with its history and literature.

Photo: DAAD

Colorful, down to earth, inquisitive: These are the adjectives Dr. Dorothea Rüländ uses to describe her alma mater. That's quite a complement, coming as it does from a woman who is familiar with universities and higher education systems all over the world. As secretary general of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), she puts universities in contact with one another and helps them to organize exchange programs in academics and research. In April 2011 she was also appointed to the Freiburg University Council.

She decided to study at the University of Freiburg for pragmatic reasons more than anything else, says Rüländ: She wanted to stay near her hometown Karlsruhe. The question of what she wanted to study, on the other hand, was not as easy to answer: "I was interested in a lot of fields of study. I'm something of a generalist." Admissions restrictions for medicine introduced in 1974 – the same year Rüländ applied – stood in the way of a course of study in this field, so she ended up enrolling in a double degree program: A teacher education program in German studies and history, and a magister program in musicology.

Explore, Discover, Experience

Her years in Freiburg were characterized by "enormous freedom" and the "offshoots of the student protest movement of the late 60's." The desire to experience and discover new things is still with her today. Rüländ thus feels right at home at the DAAD. "I find it exciting to travel a lot, work together with people from around the world, and get to know other cultures." Her work has led her to all of the continents. When preparing for a trip to a

new place, she doesn't just study the numbers and facts but also immerses herself in the customs, the history, and the literature of the country.

Internationality is a key word for the DAAD secretary general with regard to the future of the university: "We live in a globalized world. Universities profit from close cooperation in teaching and research." But this requires a coherent strategy: "Hundreds of partnership agreements are often not even worth the paper they're written on. It just isn't possible to fill so many partnerships with life." Instead, Rüländ advises universities to concentrate on a few selected partnerships. She sees Freiburg on the right track with its recently signed partnership agreement with the American top university Harvard.

A Life Abroad

Her four children grew up in an international environment: Two of her daughters first saw the light of the world in Thailand, where Rüländ served for five years as a lecturer at Chiang Mai University. Her third daughter was half a year old when the family moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, where Rüländ also spent five years as director of a DAAD branch office, and while there the couple adopted a girl who was a close friend of their daughters. "It was our children who had the idea. My husband and I said: Good, we'll do it – if you don't mind sharing your things with another sister." The family finally ended up settling down in Bonn, where the DAAD headquarters is located. Dorothea Rüländ's husband, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Rüländ, commutes between Bonn and Freiburg – where he serves as a professor in international politics.

Rimma Gerenstein



A Full Moon, Champagne,
and a Cold Fiat

**Dr. Christiane ter Meer-Bekk &
Dr. Peter Bekk**

"I was a tutor for the practical course in basic chemistry. Girls are scarce and quickly taken in chemistry. She fell for me while we looked at the full moon from the top of the chemistry high-rise at a party after the end of the course in April 1977. I told my future wife that there was piano up there and that I would play a few songs for her. We ended up watching the sun rise with a bottle of champagne on Schauinsland in a cold Fiat 127 – good for snuggling together!"



South Korean Meets
Bobbele

**Eun Jung Cho Haidorfer &
Gernot Haidorfer**

"I came to Freiburg from the South Korean town of Ulsan, home of Hyundai, in the spring of 1996 to take German language courses and prepare for a course of study in Germany. Although I never stepped into one of the little streams lining the city streets, I met my future husband, a real "Bobbele" (i.e., a Freiburg native), during this time. We met at one of the Catholic student organization's international student events, in which international and German students take hikes together or present slideshows on their native country."

Good Chemistry

**Dr. Friedrich Tröndlin &
Bruna Tröndlin**

Bruna, a native Freiburger, and Fritz from Grenzach on the High Rhine, met at a practical course on chemical analysis in summer semester 1970. She was the theoretician thanks to her powers of comprehension, and he was the practitioner in the laboratory. So they complemented each other perfectly. And since the romantic chemistry between them was also good, they became a couple and have shared good times and bad ever since.



Coffee Break
on the Roof Deck
**Margret Böhme &
Dr. Rolf Böhme**

"My wife studied economics in Freiburg in winter semester 1967/68, and I was a doctoral candidate at the Department of Constitutional Law at the time. Since PhD students generally drink a lot of coffee, I spent a lot of time in the cafeteria on the roof deck of Collegiate Building II. One afternoon I was sitting there drinking my coffee and a lady next to me wanted to light a cigarette but evidently didn't have any matches. I reacted quickly and gave her a light. What followed is a long story. The roof-top cafeteria isn't there anymore, but the building still holds a special place in our memories to this day."

ALUMNI COUPLES

From the Heart

Many alumni of the University of Freiburg are good examples of how a college romance can lead to a lifelong relationship. Rosa-Maria Gschwendtner asked several of them how they met each other during their studies.



**Proposal on Her Birthday
Dr. Ortrud Müller-Dietz &
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz
Müller-Dietz**

“On Sunday, October 3rd, 1954 – we had both just arrived in Freiburg a few weeks before – we each decided to take a hike to Schauinsland independently of one another. I started at Sternwaldeck, and my future husband started in Günterstal. We met along the way there, got along right away, and decided to hike back together. He accompanied me to my doorstep and said he would come back the following Saturday. But he was already there again on Monday. He proposed to me in December, and on December 18th, my birthday, I agreed to marry him. It was the proverbial love at first sight.”

**Graceful Appearance,
Powerful Voice**

**Dieter Gutschick &
Dr. Marianne Gutschick**

“On the bus on an excursion to Prague in winter semester 1964/65 I saw a cute girl with blond hair stuck up in a bun and a friendly face. She aroused my interest immediately, so I stood next to the door at the first break to get a better look at her as she stepped out of the bus. Out climbed a graceful young lady who, hardly out of the bus, again almost disappeared from my view. The combination of a powerful voice and a graceful appearance fascinated me so much that I used the entire stay in Prague to convey my interest in a relationship – and it evidently worked.”



**Fluttering Skirt,
Thumping Hearts
Karl Horn & Barbara Horn**

“I saw her – medium-sized, full-figured, brunette, diverse interests, and witty – for the first time at a meeting of the departmental student committee of theology in the so-called ‘rabbit stall’ in summer semester 1989. The fact that she didn’t make the impression of being particularly interested at the start didn’t stop me from trying to introduce myself into her daily routine as often as possible. My persistence finally warmed her stone cold heart and she became curious. I convinced her to go on a day trip with me. She expected a car, but I came on a motorcycle. So she rode with me wearing a half-shell helmet and a skirt that fluttered in the wind as our hearts thumped. It was the first of many great day trips – and we’re still doing them today!”

**From Prejudice
to True Love**

**Renate Frenzel &
Alexander Frenzel**

At 2:27 p.m. on 13 April 1970 a pretty 23-year-old law student stepped out of the train from Hamburg at the Freiburg train station. At the law library she met a classmate who asked her: “And where do you come from?” When he said in return that he was from “Berlin,” she turned away and remarked that she had never got along with Berliners. On the next day around lunchtime the two met again by chance at the fountain behind Collegiate Building II. She smiled at him, and he smiled back. In the lecture course the next day she asked quietly: “Do you have a pencil?” He laughed. She had addressed him with the familiar “Du” for the first time. The ice was broken, and the way was paved for a relationship that is still alive today – despite the fact that he’s from Berlin.





ALUMNI FREIBURG

“Friendraising Comes before Fundraising”



Rudolf-Werner Dreier presented the concepts of Alumni Freiburg in Moscow.

The Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow is building up an alumni organization. University officials initially invited representatives from a top American university to seek advice. However, it soon became evident that the decades-old alumni culture in the USA with an emphasis on fundraising cannot currently serve as a model for Russia. The

university thus looked for a model in Europe – and found one in Freiburg.

In April 2011 Rudolf-Werner Dreier, head of the Office of Public Relations and member of the board of directors of Alumni Freiburg, flew to Moscow to present Freiburg's concepts for alumni relations to representatives from university governance, ministries, research institutes, and foundations. His speech emphasized the fact that former students can support their alma mater financially but also with their ideas – for instance by helping graduates find internships and jobs or by participating in mentoring programs. He used the phrase “friendraising comes before fundraising” to characterize the method of binding students to the university for life and building up a network by way of information, clubs, services, and events. Freiburg has evidently become known for this concept: The univer-

sity has been in demand for years as a participant at seminars and lectures on alumni relations, both in Germany and abroad.

Matthias Kuta

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/ueber_alumni



The Russian State University for the Humanities sought advice from other universities in building up its alumni organization.

Photo: Russian State University for the Humanities

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Kraft, Schnelligkeit und Präzision: Christina Obergföll ist eine von vier Athletinnen, die den Speer weiter als 70 Meter geworfen haben.

Photo: private

PORTRAIT

“Javelin Throwing instead of Partying”

Christina Obergföll Has Established Herself among the World’s Best Track and Field Athletes – and Completed a Degree in Freiburg along the Way

Early in the morning she takes the train to Freiburg, goes to lecture courses and seminars from eight until twelve, and then it’s back to Offenburg for several hours of training in the weight room or at the stadium – plus training camp, appointments with sponsors, international competitions: “Unfortunately, I was never able to enjoy a typical student life,” says Christina Obergföll. In 2002 she began a course of study in sports science and English at the University of Freiburg, initially in the teacher education program, later in the bachelor’s program “Promotion of Health through Exercise,” which she completed in winter semester 2009/10. However, she always went home to Offenburg to train after classes. And ever since winning the silver medal in the javelin throw at the 2005 world championships with the then European record of 70.03 meters, she has numbered among the best javelin throwers in the world.

A course of study and top-level competitive sports? “It’s possible, but it takes longer to complete your studies, you have more stress, and you need better time management,” says the athlete. On the other hand, she maintains that she

profited from both the theoretical content, for instance on anatomy, as well as the practical skills in areas such as coordination and motor skills included in her degree program. Obergföll discovered her talent for heptathlon as a teenager. Since she began specializing in the javelin throw in 1997, she has concentrated on perfecting the necessary sequence of movements for this discipline, which requires power, speed, and precision. “There are a lot of areas in which I can refine my skills and improve myself even more. It never gets boring,” reports the 30-year-old, who won the IAAF Diamond League in her discipline in 2011 – the title for the athlete with the best performance over the entire season.

Next Stop: The 2012 Summer Olympics

In addition to concentrating on her athletic career, Obergföll is preparing for her career after her retirement from competitive sports. She is enrolled in a master’s program at a distance university on “Prevention and Health Management” with a specialization in sports nutrition and weight management. “I find it terribly interesting. I can see myself working as a nutritionist in the

future.” She also plans to start a family with her partner Boris Henry, the German men’s national javelin throw trainer. But first Christina Obergföll still has one more goal as an athlete: Olympic gold. After all, an athlete’s legacy is based on her performance at the big tournaments. “I ask myself why I haven’t been able to win the gold medal yet, although I was always one of the top contenders. But I know what I’m capable of.” What comes after the 2012 Olympic Games in London is open. “If I win a medal there, am still having fun, and can still live from the sport, I’ll keep on throwing.” Maybe even until the next Olympics in 2016.

Nicolas Scherger

HER BIGGEST TRIUMPHS

2010	Silver at the European Championships
2008	Bronze at the Olympic Games
2007	Silver at the World Championships European record and personal best mark (70.20 meters)
2005	Silver at the World Championships European record (70.03 meters)

PORTRAIT

Something Special in Every Season

Heidi Petarus is in Charge of the Botanical Gardens of the University of Freiburg

Photo: Mesenholl



Gardening on behalf of research and teaching: Technical director Heidi Petarus enjoys helping out in the decorative plant houses and the open land areas of the gardens.

BOTANICAL GARDENS

The first botanical gardens in Freiburg were opened in 1620. The current gardens are spread over two hectares and were opened in 1912. The gardens are home to over 5,000 cultivated plant species from all parts of the world. There is also a complex with display houses for ferns as well as subtropical, succulent, and tropical plants. The gardens offer free gardening advice each Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

» www.botanischer-garten.uni-freiburg.de

In the fall the leaves change color and fall to the ground of the Botanical Gardens of the University of Freiburg, but the first signs of buds already indicate that the trees and bushes will awaken again to full life in the spring. They and all other vegetation are attended to by master gardener Heidi Petarus and her team of 16 gardeners.

When the expert on the cultivation of decorative plants talks about her garden, the visitor understands immediately that her position as director of the gardens involves more than just office work. “Depending on the time of year, I help out in the greenhouses or in the open land areas of the garden,” says the master gardener. “I also want to set an example for our apprentices – and that means getting my hands dirty.” As technical director she is also responsible for staff coordination, planning, and the organization of operations at the gardens. But despite all of these administrative responsibilities she still finds time to engage in practical activities, such as helping to set up a bionics nature trail that shows how technology can profit from nature’s own blueprints.

Not a City Park but a Science Park

She and her team also take part in research and teaching at the university, since they provide the material for practical courses in biology and cultivate plants on behalf of scientists conducting

research projects. It hurts Petarus to sacrifice plants to science that she has nurtured so lovingly, but she knows that biologists need the plants for their experiments: “We’re not a city park but a science park.” By contrast, no plant has to be sacrificed for environmental education: “I love giving school classes tours of the gardens and the greenhouses and passing on my knowledge.” School students get to experience nature first hand at the new touch-and-smell plant bed. Attractions like this serve to increase the public profile of the gardens: “Our gardens are an ideal meeting place for research, education, and the general public,” says Petarus. With over 5,000 cultivated plant species, the gardens offer a window into the world of botany.

Petarus is always happy to take on the role of plant doctor for people who need advice taking care of their plants. She has a quick answer for people who wonder how it is possible to cultivate such a great variety of plants from all over the world – some of them very rare – in the space of a single garden: “We are in close contact with other botanical gardens and order seeds and saplings worldwide,” says Petarus. She is proud of the fact that nearly all of the plants at the gardens were cultivated by her and her team in Freiburg. When asked what time of year alumni should visit the gardens, she replies immediately: “The gardens have something special to offer year round.”

Eva Opitz

INTERVIEW

Freiburg is His Alma Mater

Economist Burkart Knospe Is
Chairman of the University Council

Burkart Knospe is chief executive officer of Testo AG in Lenzkirch, a flourishing international corporation with 2,500 employees. Eva Opitz spoke with him about his new function as chairman of the Freiburg University Council.

uni'alumni: Mr. Knospe, you took over as chairman of the University Council in April 2011. Why?

Burkart Knospe: The University of Freiburg is my alma mater. I have a strong emotional bond with the institution. I learned the fundamentals of self-organization as a student here, and, perhaps more importantly, I was exposed to and learned to appreciate ordoliberalism, the world view for which the Freiburg School is rightly known in the entire field of economics. It has become my own world view.

How were you received as the new chairman of the University Council?

Very well. It helped that I already had a year and a half of experience as a council member and wasn't entirely new. I have always found the atmosphere in this distinguished committee to be very respectful and pleasant. The council is designed to integrate successful managers and take advantage of their experience.

So there was no acclimatization phase?

It of course takes a while to build bridges. In the beginning, it was important for me to better familiarize myself with the university's needs and constraints before introducing new concepts and methods into the discussion. A momentous decision will be made in the coming year concerning the university's future with the Excellence competition.

The university's excellence radiates throughout the entire region. Eminent scholars conduct research and teach here, and students receive an above-average education.

How great are the differences between a private business and the "business" of running a university?

A private business is dominated by a clear system of goals. We want to grow, and all of our operations have the purpose of furthering this goal. This is more complex at a university with its many disciplines. My impression is that the situation is more heterogeneous as far as goals and interests are concerned.

What are your guiding principles for running a company?

I attach importance to an open discussion. My credo is that everyone in the company should have the right and the chance to understand why things work in a certain way or why he or she is doing something. If something is not understandable, there has either been an error in thinking or it hasn't been explained well enough. In both cases, the person asking the question helps the business.

You are married, have two children, and are an active member of several social organizations. How do you find time for everything?

It can be quite a burden, and I don't have much free time. However, the future of the University of Freiburg is close to my heart, and the new year will bring important developments for it. For such a short period in relation to the entire history of the university, I am thus happy to volunteer my services and shoulder a part of the responsibility.



Burkart Knospe completed his studies in economics in Freiburg in 1989. He began his career at Testo in 1992 as the managing director of the company's American marketing subsidiary in New Jersey. After returning from the USA in 1998, he worked as managing director for marketing in Lenzkirch and spokesman of management for the company's marketing, finance, and human resources departments. For the past ten years he has served as chief executive officer of Testo AG. A father of two children, Knospe is familiar with the academic world thanks, among other things, to his teaching assignments at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Photo: Bamberger

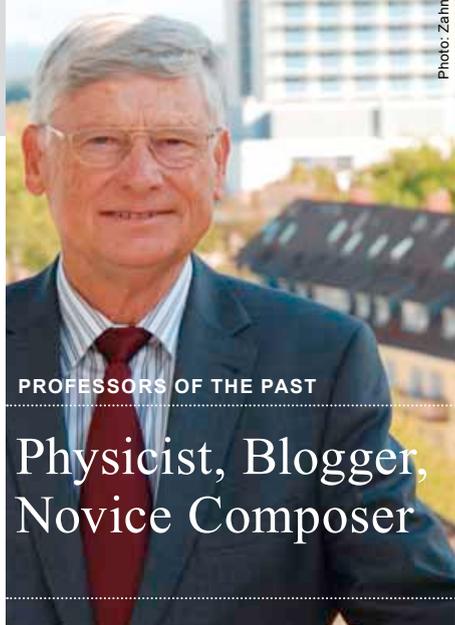


Photo: Zahn

PROFESSORS OF THE PAST

Physicist, Blogger, Novice Composer

Josef Honerkamp publishes his own works on the Internet.

"I discovered writing as a drug," says Josef Honerkamp. In 2010 the emeritus professor of theoretical physics published the book *The Discovery of the Inconceivable*, in which he explains his discipline for a general audience. The 70-year-old has continued writing since then – several hours a day. "It helps me to see things more clearly myself and create order in my mind." Honerkamp posts a new article on his blog roughly once every two weeks – on concepts from physics and philosophy like the big bang, time, and Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. The blog reaches several thousand readers.

Honorary Post at the University

Honerkamp serves in a voluntary capacity as representative of the rector for awards and honors, informing faculty members of research and teaching awards, nominating candidates, helping them to apply, and organizing juries for prizes awarded by the university. In addition, he composes fugues and arranges music for songs in his free time. Some of his works, which he arranged with a music program on the computer, can be heard on the video portal YouTube. However, his blog is his main passion. The comments readers make on his articles lead him to ever new questions – and might even lead to another book, says Honerkamp: "Writing is the key to immortality."

Nicolas Scherger

Josef Honerkamp's blog:

» www.scilogs.de/chrono/blog/die-natur-der-naturwissenschaft

A LOOK BACK: ACADEMIC SOCIETY MARKS ANNIVERSARY

Support for All Fields

The Freiburg Academic Society, one of the oldest associations for the promotion of research at a German university, celebrated its 100th anniversary on 28 October 2011 with a ceremony in the Audimax. The society's history is associated closely with the construction of Collegiate Building I, which was dedicated on 28 November 1911. Since this time, the Academic Society has funded research projects in all academic



applications we have received. We often approve funding for innovative but risky research ideas or pilot projects with unknown outcomes," explains Volz. Altogether, the society awards a total of around 80 research grants per year. Moreover, the society pitches in when something in a research project unexpectedly goes wrong or when an additional measurement device is needed. The members include dedicated individuals as well as important companies. The majority are university employees. Volz is interested in attracting many more members – especially professors of the university, but also more individuals and companies or municipalities in the region.

Eva Opitz



Chairman Karl-Reinhard Volz wants to attract more members. Photo: private

disciplines. It promotes young researchers primarily by awarding travel grants to international conferences. "This helps them make a name for themselves and form networks with other scholars in their field," says Prof. Dr. Karl-Reinhard Volz. "They are exposed to new research ideas and are freed from their regular routine."

The forest scientist has served as chairman of the Academic Society since early 2011. "Our board of trustees meets twice a year to evaluate the



BECOME A MEMBER

The Academic Society currently has 180 members. Individual members pay membership dues of at least 55 euros per year, organizations and companies 110 euros. Anyone who is interested in promoting research and young scholars is welcome to join. For more information, please visit the society's new homepage:

» www.wissges.uni-freiburg.de

PORTRAIT

Ulrich Egert, originally a biologist, has been conducting research at the Department of Microsystems Engineering since 2008. Photo: Müller/Imtek

Mediator between the Disciplines

Biologist Ulrich Egert is Investigating Networks of Nerve Cells

An epileptic seizure is the endpoint of a long chain of events in the brain, and Prof. Dr. Ulrich Egert wants to find out how and why this chain is triggered. He and his team at the Biomicrotechnology Laboratory of the Department of Microsystems Engineering (IMTEK) of the University of Freiburg are observing and activating nerve networks in cell cultures. The goal is to influence the networks to engage in certain activities or to keep them in a certain state so that they do not trigger an epileptic seizure.

“We are conducting in vitro studies in our lab. It is not possible to conduct them on humans,” explains Egert. “However, the events we are observing in the cell culture are an abstraction of mechanisms in the brain and follow the same principles.” The experiments involve creating a network of nerve cells on microelectrode arrays to serve as a model for processes in the brain. Microelectrode arrays are special chips with a multitude of electrodes and a specially coated surface which is conducive to the growth of nerve cells.

Studying and Controlling Transitional Processes

This research method enables Egert to observe in great detail the chain of events that leads these networks into various states of activity. Medical researchers, on the other hand, only see the end of this chain: the seizure itself. This is not enough if one wants to understand the causes of any neurological disorder – not just epilepsy. The mechanisms active in the brain during a seizure are different from those that take place beforehand. The critical moment in the chain of events is the transitional process leading up to a seizure. The scientist and his team are investigating these transitional processes and trying to find ways to control them.

Egert became a professor in Freiburg in 2008. Although he is employed by IMTEK, he is not a microsystems engineer: He earned his doctorate and habilitation in biology. For his research in the neurosciences the 51-year-old is contributing to the development and optimization of new microelectrode arrays. His area of specialization constitutes a critical interface between the disciplines of biology, medicine, and engineering.

Autonomous Implants Prevent Seizures

Egert is collaborating with his colleagues at the Faculty of Engineering on the development of new tools to make his research more effective. He also cooperates closely with engineers and medical

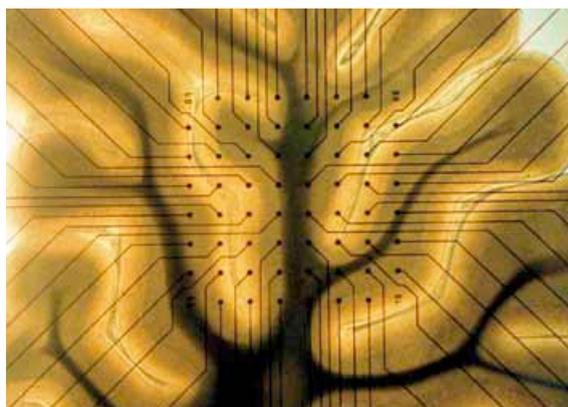
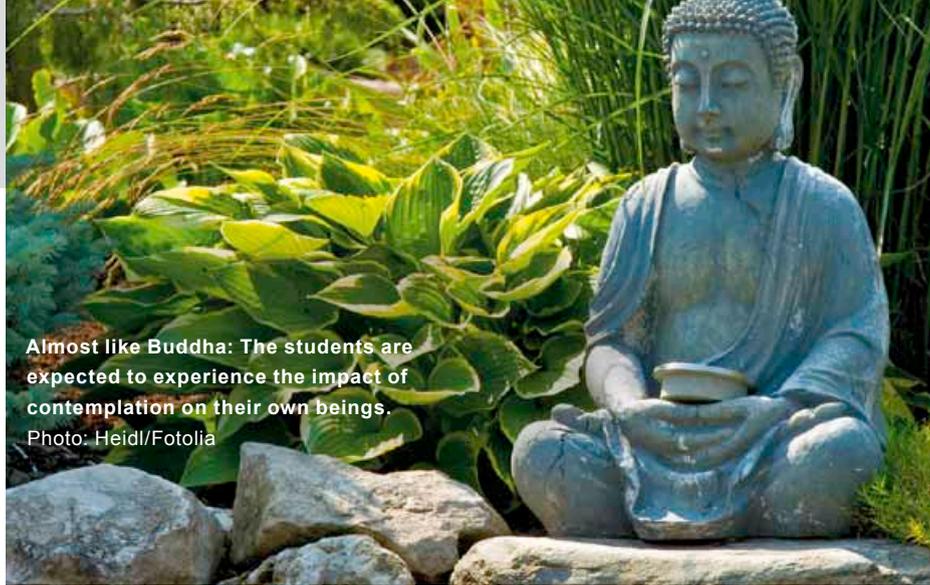


Image of a brain on an electrode array: The scientists stimulate various areas and measure how the nerve cells react.

researchers at the Bernstein Center Freiburg and the proposed Cluster of Excellence “BrainLinks – BrainTools.” The latter institution aims to develop brain implants that react and replenish their energy supply autonomously for patients suffering from neurological disorders like epilepsy.

Annette Kollefrath-Persch

» www.brainlinks.uni-freiburg.de



Almost like Buddha: The students are expected to experience the impact of contemplation on their own beings.

Photo: Heidl/Fotolia

CONTINUING EDUCATION: "INTERCULTURALITY AND SPIRITUALITY"

Opening Hearts and Minds



Bernhard Uhde wants to help students become more sensitive in their dealings with others.

"It's not esotericism but serious scholarship," says Prof. Dr. Bernhard Uhde. The theologian and religion scholar founded a degree program entitled "Interculturality and Spirituality" in a collaborative effort between the University of Freiburg and the Institute of West-Eastern Wisdom. The reason: "Many people are interested in spiritual questions, but they don't have the necessary theoretical foundation to grapple with them." This is exactly what students of the program will receive starting in summer semester 2012. However, the two-year program doesn't just teach skills in religion but also in social stud-

ies and politics. Tuition for the entire program is 4,000 euros, and graduates receive a diploma of advanced studies.

Drawing from Traditions

In order to open the "hearts and minds" of the students, the program combines theoretical online modules with practical exercise courses taught on campus once or twice a semester. The on-campus phases are designed to allow the students to experience the impact of contemplation "on their own beings." The program draws from the traditions of the five major world religions. Students study what the term spirituality entails in Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism: Where do they differ, where are they similar? And how is it possible to understand each other on the basis of different forms of spirituality? Interculturality thus plays a critical role in the program. The curriculum also includes courses in fields like psychology, neurology, and physics in order to provide students with a broad scientific foundation.

According to Uhde, the most important goal of the new continuing education program is to help students become more sensitive in their dealings with others. However, he stresses that the degree program is not for everybody: "One does have to have a certain feel for it."

Maximilian Vogelmann

» www.weiterbildung.uni-freiburg.de/wiswbd/diploma

MY PODCAST: RALF POSCHER

A Forum for Discourse

Prof. Dr. Ralf Poscher from the Institute of Political Science and Philosophy of Law first came up with the idea of starting a video podcast series during a research stay at Princeton: "In the USA there is a very vibrant lecturing culture. I found it fascinating."

The lecture series "Freiburg Lectures on Political Science and Philosophy of Law," which he initiated in 2010, is designed as an interdisciplinary forum for discourse between Anglo-American and continental European legal studies. "The purpose of the podcasts is to document the international exchange," says Ralf Poscher. Eight renowned researchers from the USA and Europe have already contributed a lecture to the series.

When the author and jurist Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schlink spoke on the topic "Denunciatory Culture" in the Audimax, the lecture hall was full to bursting. "There were even people asking us whether they could buy a ticket from us, but our event is free of charge," says Poscher with a grin. Those who missed Schlink or the other speakers live need not worry: The podcast is ready to be viewed at any time.

Maximilian Vogelmann



Ralf Poscher was responsible for initiating the lecture series.

» www.podcasts.uni-freiburg.de

» www.uni-freiburg.de/go/freiburger-vortraege



Academic, Demanding, Different

The aka-Filmclub Is a Freiburg Institution with Open Structures

There are movie theaters that get along without plush seating and expensive sound systems. The aka-Filmclub is one of them. Lecture hall 2006 in Collegiate Building II at the University of Freiburg is transformed into a cinema up to four times a week. It is neither glamorous nor comfortable, but the room fills up when a classic is on the program. Then the students fold down the bare wooden chairs and unpack what they have brought with them: apple tart, salad, beer. The club was

until 5 p.m., two hours before the screening. "We got pretty nervous, but we usually managed to get everything ready in time." The films were shown in various lecture halls, in the theater of the Old University, and on the weekends in the "Kamera," a tiny movie theater above the theater passage. The hall was always full to capacity: "Sometimes it was so packed we had to show the film a second time." The club kept to certain standards in its selection of films, showing classics like *The Blue Angel*, *The Battleship Potemkin*, or silent films by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau and Fritz Lang.

mas Carol in the program during advent. "Generally speaking, we have two types of screenings," explains Litschel. "We have film series and individual films, some of them even fairly recent, like Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*."

Today the distributors send the films directly to the club's office. They are still heavy, and they have to be wound onto two big reels. "We bring them into KG II on a handcart. That part hasn't changed," says Litschel. The technology, on the other hand, has undergone some improvements: The club and the university recently invested in a surround sound system and improved the acoustics of the hall. Now the only thing missing is plush seating.

Stephanie Streif



Helmut Götte (right) founded the film club in 1957. Johannes Litschel is the current chair. Photo: Streif

founded by law student Helmut Götte and medical student Wolfram Dischler in 1957. The idea was to "introduce a little nostalgic flair into Freiburg's cinema landscape," as Götte recalls today. In the early years the team was small. There were four people to hang up posters, organize the projector, and pick up the heavy film reels from the train station with a handcart – sometimes not

Everything from the Muppets to Lars von Trier

Today the aka-Filmclub has around 40 active members. One of them is Johannes Litschel, who studies forest science and is active in the club's committee. He has always been interested in films, says the 27-year-old, and so he decided to go to one of the club's meetings a few years ago. He had expected to find an elite group of cinema buffs who knew everything about even the most obscure films, but the club's structures are open. Everyone who is interested can get involved. A meeting is held each semester at which all members vote on which films to include in the program. The club still adheres to the goal of only showing "artistically valuable" or "historically and sociologically significant" films as described in its charter, but that doesn't stop it from including films like *The Muppet Christ-*

AKA-FILMCLUB

The first meeting of the Academic Film Club, aka-Filmclub for short, took place on 22 November 1957. The first screening was 18 days later. The title of the film: *All the King's Men*. The aka-Filmclub is a registered association and has supported itself since its founding. It has a 35 millimeter film projector, several Super 8 cameras, and its own office with a darkroom, a library, and a crank machine. The club shares a projector for DVD screenings with the university. Patrons have to purchase an ID card for 2.50 euros per semester and then pay 1.50 euros for admission to each film.

» www.aka-filmclub.de

Campus Bulletin



Citizens, emperors, gods: The replicas and originals of the Archaeological Collection can all be viewed in one place for the first time ever. Photo: Zahn

New Directors, New Projects

■ The Freiburg University Medical Center has a pair of new directors. The supervisory board appointed Reinhold Keil as commercial director. Keil previously served in the same position at the Essen University Medical Center. Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüdiger Siewert will remain head medical director. Siewert had previously taken over responsibility for this position temporarily while still serving as chairman of the board of the Heidelberg University Medical Center. In addition, the State of Baden-Württemberg plans to invest 400 million euros in the Freiburg University Medical Center in the coming years – for a cancer center, a cell research institute, an operation center, and a children's clinic, among other things.



Jörg Rüdiger Siewert (left) and Reinhold Keil are the new duo at the helm of the Freiburg University Medical Center.

Photos: Freiburg University Medical Center

» www.uniklinik-freiburg.de

Everything in One Place

■ New room for old artworks: The university's Archaeological Collection has reopened in the former paper warehouse of the Herder publishing company and may be viewed in its entirety for the first time ever. The collection comprises over 550 original objects from Greek, Etruscan, and Roman antiquity, including vase paintings, reliefs, and marble portraits. Moreover, it provides a representative sample of ancient art with over 800 plaster replicas of ancient statues and reliefs, the originals of which stand in museums around the world. The collection serves teaching purposes and can be visited free of charge in the Herder Building.

» www.archaeologische-sammlung.uni-freiburg.de

High-Tech Helmet Wins Design Award

■ Medical technology doesn't have to be unstylish: A helmet for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) developed by a team of researchers in Freiburg under Prof. Dr. Jan G. Korvink in cooperation with a design agency has been selected to receive the prestigious Red Dot Award for innovative product design. The helmet delivers high-resolution images of the brain – and during the MRI scan the patient can watch movies, listen to music, or contact a nurse at any time.



Design, comfort, and cutting-edge technology: The helmet has many advantages for patients.

Image: IMTEK

Prestigious Prizes

■ The European Research Council (ERC) has awarded an ERC Research Grant to Prof. Dr. Ingo Krossing, Institute of Inorganic and Analytic Chemistry, and five ERC Starting Grants to junior researchers of the University of Freiburg: Dr. Marta Artal Sanz, Institute of Biology III, Prof. Dr. Thomas Brox, Department of Computer Science and Centre for Biological Signalling Studies (BIOSS), Junior Professor Dr. Winfried Römer, BIOSS, Dr. Oliver Schilling, Institute of Molecular Medicine and Cell Research and Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine, and Dr. Maxim Zaitsev, Radiological Clinic. The six scientists now have a total of 9.2 million euros at their disposal to conduct new research.

New Projects for Instructional Development

■ The Federal Ministry of Education and Research has approved proposals for instructional projects at the University of Freiburg in two competitions. The university secured 6.13 million euros in funding in the Quality Pact for Teaching – among other things to launch a mentoring program for students, develop new instructional concepts, and found the University College Freiburg, whose purpose will be to strengthen problem-oriented, interdisciplinary instruction. The 2.7 million euros the university secured in the competition “Advancement through Education: Open Higher Education Institutions,” on the other hand, will be used to offer more continuing education programs.



Vice Rector Heiner Schanz is responsible for the new teaching concepts.

Photo: Schilling

Strong Partner in the USA

■ The university's network of alliances with international top universities is growing: The University of Freiburg is launching an exchange program in which a professor from Harvard University, USA, will come to Freiburg with 20 students for half a year and a Freiburg professor will teach for a semester at Harvard in return. The program is set to begin in January 2012 with the project “Europe's Answers to the World's Problems.” In addition, the University of Freiburg has signed a cooperation agreement with the University of California, Berkeley, USA. The first joint research emphasis between the two institutions, “Quantum Efficiency,” will deal with the question of how to convert light into energy and vice versa as efficiently as possible. Finally, an agreement with the Penn State University, USA, includes plans for the exchange of students, doctoral candidates, teaching faculty, and administration as well as conferences in several disciplines.

A Quick Wire to the University

■ The University of Freiburg has set up a knowledge management service in order to improve networking with leaders from businesses and societal organizations. It is the first central service center for research-related requests from mostly small and medium-sized companies. The contacts are retired professors representing the entire spectrum of disciplines at the university. The partners of the new service center are the Chamber of Commerce of the Southern Upper Rhine and the Business Association of Industrial Enterprises in Baden.

» www.uni-freiburg.de/forschung/wissenstransfer/kms

Stimulus for Security Research

■ The Center for Security and Society of the University of Freiburg has signed a cooperation agreement with the Fraunhofer Institute for High-Speed Dynamics and the company IBM. The center will participate in a research cluster at the Fraunhofer Institute that develops security technologies and studies the legal and social consequences of their implementation. Together with IBM the center will conduct research into concepts for data security in order to answer legal questions concerning security technologies. The first project involves scenarios for a crime prevention platform in Germany.



Rector Hans-Jochen Schiewer (right) and Martin Jetter, chief executive of IBM Germany, have signed a cooperation agreement. Photo: Pflüger

» www.sicherheitundgesellschaft.uni-freiburg.de

SURVEY

Welcome to Freiburg

People from all corners of the globe come to Freiburg to study, teach, or work in the university administration. Eva Opitz asked four of them what surprised them most upon their arrival in Freiburg.



Mehdi Ider from Tizirt, Algeria (19), second-year student of economics, is spending a semester abroad in Freiburg

“I came to Freiburg on September 30th, 2011 to study for five months. I spent the first year of my studies in Paris, France. What surprised me most when I arrived in Freiburg was the large number of bicycles. I’ve never seen so many bicyclists before – neither in my hometown Tizirt nor in Paris. And there are even separate lanes for bicycles, pedestrians, and cars. I find it great and am looking around for an inexpensive bicycle.”

Nuria Beltrán Sánchez from Barcelona, Spain (38), administrative employee at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences

“What surprised me right away when I first arrived in Freiburg 16 years ago in April was the cold. In Barcelona we’re getting ready for the summer at this time of year and wear less and less clothing each day. Here I had to think about what I could still put on. I hardly saw anyone in shorts until the end of June either. Since I was anxious to see the town, I put on a sweater and a knit cap and did everything I had planned to do in spite of the cold. I was also overwhelmed by the large number of people riding bicycles even in such cold weather.”



Prof. Dr. Gregory Scholes from Toronto, Canada (44), visiting scholar at the University of Freiburg in summer semesters 2011 and 2012

“I’m actually hard to surprise. Since I travel around so much, I don’t arrive with very great expectations – I’m just happy to get there. What I found astounding about Freiburg, though, was that it’s such a pretty little town. I hadn’t expected that. The proximity of the Black Forest, which I enjoyed hiking in, was also a surprise for me. As a scientist I was surprised most by the great amount of research institutes at and around the university.”

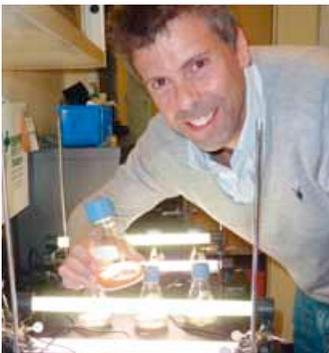


Photo: private

Prof. Dr. Chongko Choi from Seoul, South Korea (63), alumnus, earned his doctorate in law at the University of Freiburg in 1979

“I arrived in Freiburg shortly before the end of the year in 1975. The week after Christmas I had to stay at Thomas More Dormitory. I couldn’t buy anything anywhere. All of the stores were closed. I thought I would have to starve. For a Korean, who can go shopping anytime, the German business hours were a big surprise.”



Photo: private

A LOOK FORWARD

New brilliance: A large new plaza has been built in front of the restored customs office. Photo: Aurelis Real Estate

Living at the Knowledge Terminal

Developers Are Planning a Business Park on the North Side – but the Details Are Under Contention

It is the last sizable piece of prime real estate in Freiburg and also the largest bone of contention for city planners: the freight terminal on the north side. The 40-hectare area is slated for renovation into a deluxe business park, a knowledge terminal, as Dr. Bernd Dallmann, director of Freiburg's marketing and tourism agency FWTM, is fond of calling it. The tenants are to be primarily science and research enterprises and premium service providers. But the owner and the municipal administration are locking horns on the question of what the showcase project with the trendy name Gare du Nord should look like.

Two Partners, Two Visions

The owner of the plot of land with a planned 375,000 square meters of useable surface is Aurelis Real Estate, a successor company of Deutsche Bahn. However, the municipal administration has the authority to set specifications for land use and urban planning conceptions. The city signed a general framework agreement with Deutsche Bahn's real estate agency in 2000, but the two parties were at odds as to how the land should be developed. City hall wanted a purely commercial development, Aurelis a mix with residential space, which is faster to build and more lucrative to market. The city then resolved to purchase the land, but the negotiations fell through.

In 2006 both sides finally agreed to initially concentrate on the old customs office and the warehouses behind it and to conduct new negotiations on possible residential development in another five years. In the meantime, the two parties have agreed on a proportion of 70 percent commercial and 30 percent residential space. However, they are still in disagreement as to how exactly this mix should be realized. The city favors buildings with commercial space, such as doctor's offices and stores, on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors. Aurelis Real Estate, on the other hand, which will have invested 30 million euros in the project by the time it is finished, doesn't see why purely residential blocks shouldn't be allowed in the heart of the new neighborhood.

The First Tenants Have Already Moved In

But even though the last word has not yet been spoken, the historical customs office building and the customs halls have been restored, and the first tenants have already moved in – including the advertising agency Quint, a studio of the fitness chain Rückgrat, and Quintiles GmbH, a service provider for medical research. Aurelis built a plaza in front of the customs house and turned it over to the city. The three-million-euro gift is part of the agreement with the city, but it is also a nice gesture. As a German saying goes, gifts maintain friendships.



Transfer site: The freight terminal on Freiburg's north side, here in the 1930s, was once the town's main goods station.

Photos: Freiburg City Archives, M70/S199

MARKET FORCES

The Best of the Wurst

Freiburg's Cathedral Square Has Expanded Its Culinary Offerings



With onions, please: The Freiburg Cathedral sausage can now be bought at seven stands.

Photo: Kunz

The “long red” has company: Since summer 2011 the popular sausage has been available at seven rather than five stands. A new European Union directive on services specifies that stands not just be given to long-established vendors, as has been the case since time immemorial, but that everyone be allowed to apply for a stand by way of a call for bids. This led to fears among Freiburg's citizenry that the future of the cult sausage might be in danger.

Up to now, anyone who wanted a juicy sausage in a roll – with or without fried onions – had four stands on the

north side and one on the south side of Cathedral Square to choose from. This quintet also enjoyed preferential treatment in the call for bids issued to bring Freiburg in line with the new directive. A specially appointed sausage commission evaluated the 25 bidders according to three criteria: market experience, the stand's attractiveness, and product quality. In addition to the established vendors Hassler, Meier, Hauber, Uhl, and Karle-Hämmerle, the commission approved stands for two new vendors: the butcher shop Rothmund from the town of Murg on the Swiss border and the butcher shop Licht from Bad Krozingen in Mark-

gräflerland. From now on, their sausages will also land in the tummies of tourists and open-minded locals.

The more radical change, however, is that the stands now really cater to everyone in the health-conscious city of Freiburg: For those of us who don't eat meat, the local company Life Food now offers tofu sausages at a stand on the square. The *Badische Zeitung* asked readers to come up with a name for this new sausage on its Facebook page. The best idea: “the long green.”

Claudia Fäßler

EUGEN KEIDEL BATH

Thermal Bath Renovated

■ Brighter, more modern, more efficient: The Eugen Keidel Bath has been renovated for more than ten million euros. The new glass facade lets in a lot of light. Wood pellet heating, improved insulation, and a system for using the warmth from bath water contribute to lower emissions and energy costs. The renovated spa also features three new thermal pools, a therapy pool split up into two areas, two outdoor saunas, and an expanded sunbathing area. Originally opened in 1979, the bath serves around 400,000 customers per year.

KOMMANDO RHINO

Squatters Evicted

■ “Commando Rhino” is history: The alternative squat in the Vauban neighborhood, a trailer park in which 30 mostly young people have been living for the past two years, has been cleared out by the police. In the night preceding the eviction, left-wing autonomists allegedly staged the most violent riot Freiburg has seen in years: with burning barricades, iron claws on the street, and two injuries. The city's building authority is now building a hotel which will offer jobs and traineeships to the disabled as well as an apartment building with commercial space on the site.

UNITED WORLD COLLEGE

Boarding School Planned

■ A boarding school for future world citizens: A United World College (UWC) is set to move into the former Carthusian Monastery and teach understanding, tolerance, and social responsibility to students from around the world. From 2014 on, the college will prepare 15- to 18-year-olds for an internationally recognized secondary-school diploma in a two-year program. Special emphasis will be placed on sustainability and environmental technologies. There are currently 13 UWC's worldwide. The Freiburg college will be the first in Germany. The Robert Bosch Foundation and the company Bosch are investing 40 million euros in the project.

Important Dates in 2012

Experience science, congratulate prizewinners, get to know the university in a new light: Alumni of the University of Freiburg are cordially invited to take part in this year's main events at their alma mater.

Date/Time	Event	Location
16 Dec. 2011 2:15 p.m.	Faculty Day of the Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences	Herder Building, Tennenbacher Straße 4, Room 100
20 June 2012 7:15 p.m.	Dies Universitatis	Collegiate Building I, Aula
6 July 2012– 8 July 2012	Alumni Meeting	main campus, faculties, city tours
6 July 2012 9 a.m.	Day of Research and Graduation	Faculty of Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Earth Sciences (Albertstraße 21, Chemistry Lecture Hall)
6 July 2012 3 p.m.	Faculty Day of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics	Albertstraße 21a, lecture hall in round building
6 July 2012 3 p.m.	Faculty Day of the Faculty of Engineering	Collegiate Building II, Audimax
7 July 2012 7:30 p.m.	Freiburg Science Night	Freiburg Concert House
27 July 2012 9:15 a.m.	Faculty Day of the Faculty of Biology	Hauptstraße 1, Zoology Lecture Hall
19 Oct. 2012 2 p.m.	Family Afternoon for Beginning Students/ "Market of Opportunities"	Collegiate Building II, foyer
24 Oct. 2012 10 a.m.	Official Opening of the Academic Year	Collegiate Building II, Audimax

Alumni back at their alma mater: The Alumni Club Freiburg and the aka-Filmclub organized a film screening at the cinema in the Administrative Building in November 2011. Photo: Kunz



Masthead

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Alumni Services

Expert Service and Networking Service

Are you looking for an expert from the university to speak at your event or help you with an academic question? Would you like to get back in touch with a particular old acquaintance from your studies? The expert service and the alumni networking service can help you. For more information, please send us an email at:

» alumni@uni-freiburg.de

University House on Schauinsland

Featuring seminar rooms for conference groups, comfortable rooms and accommodations, and catering with regional food and drink, the University House on Schauinsland is an ideal environment for concentrated work as well as for a relaxing getaway to the Black Forest. For more information and details on making reservations, please send an email to the landlord Franz Reisle:

Email:

» reisle@t-online.de

Continuing Education

Lifelong learning is a critical asset in our information society. As alumni of the University of Freiburg, you are particularly welcome to take advantage of our continuing education offerings. More information is available on the following websites:

Freiburg Academy of Continuing Education:

» www.akademie.uni-freiburg.de

Studium Generale:

» www.studiumgenerale.uni-freiburg.de

Language Teaching Centre:

» www.sli.uni-freiburg.de

Newsletter

Our alumni newsletter provides you with news we have gathered from the faculties, departments, the city, student initiatives, and the alumni clubs several times a year. Visit our online archive to download back issues as well as newsletters from individual clubs:

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/service/newsletter

University Library

The Freiburg University Library houses a collection of over three million volumes, providing the university community with academic literature, periodicals, and films – twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Due to renovation work, the library will be located in the Stadthalle on the old fairgrounds and on Rempartstraße 10–16 until fall 2013. Visit the library's homepage to find out more:

» www.ub.uni-freiburg.de

Reading Tips

Are you interested in reading books published by fellow alumni of the University of Freiburg, or maybe in letting former classmates know about your own book? Then send us a copy of your book along with a short synopsis and a photo of the cover. We'll post your synopsis at:

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/service/literaturtipps

Email:

» alumni@uni-freiburg.de

Alumni Clubs

The University of Freiburg maintains contact with its former students through 17 regional alumni clubs around the world. The clubs hold meetings, organize excursions to cultural events, and invite researchers to present their latest findings.

Contact addresses:

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/alumni_netzwerk

Upcoming events:

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/neues_und_termine

Social Networks

You can also find us on popular social networks like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, XING – with current news from the university, photo galleries, and discussion forums. Links to our networks are available at:

» www.alumni.uni-freiburg.de/alumni_netzwerk/socialnetworks



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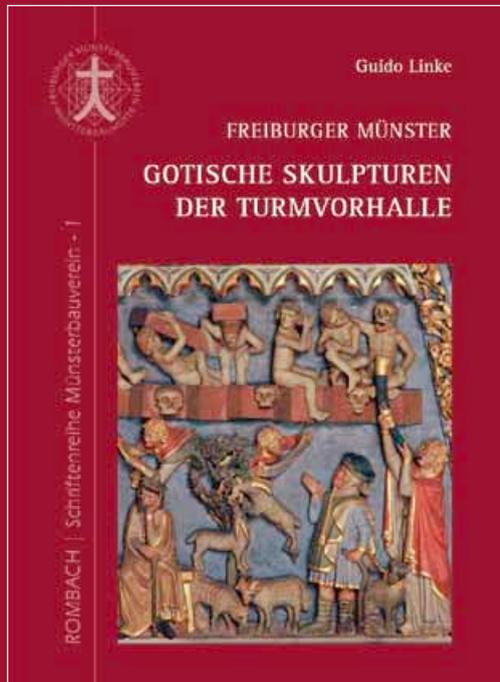
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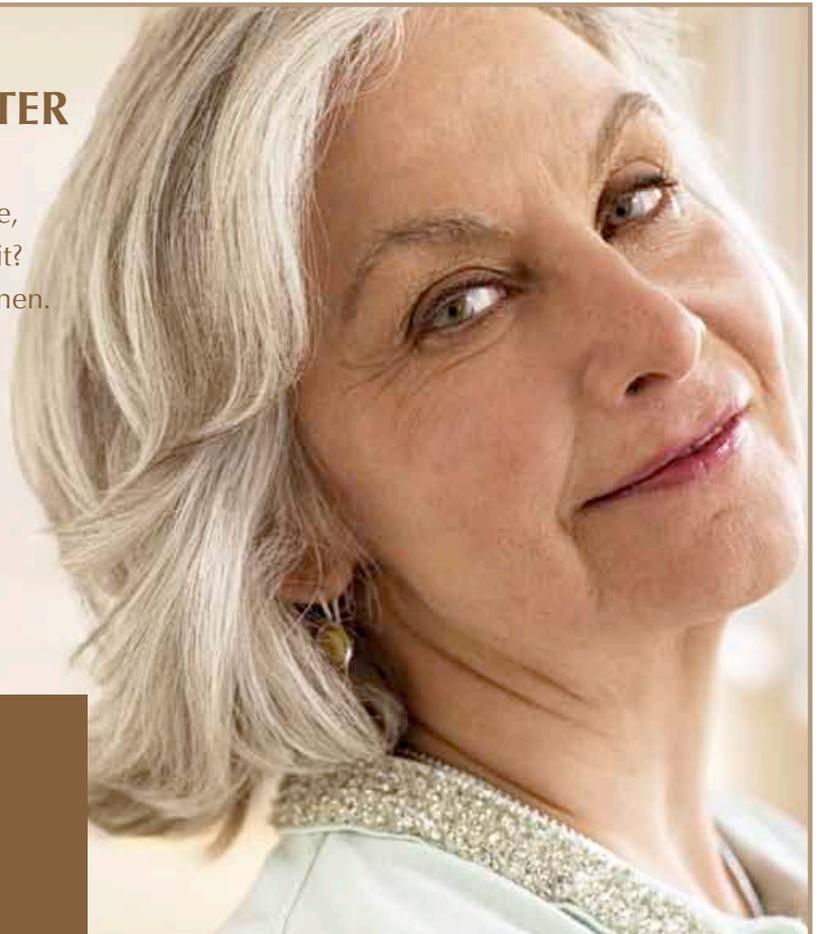
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