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Nights on campus

27 years of service: When Alfred Schneider retires in 2018 he and his dog, Attila, can kick back and relax.
PHOTO: KLAUS POLKOWSKI

On patrol with the University of Freiburg's last night watchman and his dog

by Stephanie Streif

Attila isn't very tall, but he is wide. And when he runs, his sheer mass seems to make the earth shudder. That inspires fear, above all, when the broad-headed guard dog is approaching, great stride after great stride. Meanwhile, the jangling tag on his collar sounds so harmless. Attila belongs to Alfred Schneider, the last full-time night watchman at the University of Freiburg. Six times a week, the two make their rounds on the Faculty of Engineering campus by the airfield. Attila is part of Schneider's work equipment. The watchman can even write off the costs for keeping Attila on his taxes.

Schneider's night shift always starts at 9:30 p.m. Lights are still on in some of the campus buildings. Voices can be heard in the hall of Building Nr. 51, where the caretaker's office is located. Attila pricks up his ears. He seems nervous but stays close to his master's side. "The dog will only go out from me if I tell him to," explains Schneider. He laughs warmly when asked if he has ever, during a night shift, had to tell the dog, "Go, Attila! Run!" "I've done it

a few times," says Schneider. Attila caught all of them. "Vandals, thieves, trouble-makers," he adds. Recently a few young people tried to break the windows in one of the buildings. "They were drunk or stoned," says Schneider, "so I let the dog go." In a case like that, Attila follows through. The police take care of the rest.

Nights on campus are quiet as a rule. Three times each shift, Schneider, Attila and another watchman from the CDS security service do their rounds on the compound. The university's security strategy has changed over the years. The head of Infrastructural Building Management at the university, Edgar Preuß, says, "By using watchmen alone, we wouldn't have been able to keep up with growing challenges. He says punks, the homeless and other groups of people were causing more and more disruption. So the university commissioned an external security service and the full-time, staff positions were no longer filled when watchmen retired.

Difficult for prowlers to predict

At 11 p.m., Schneider zips up his anorak, puts up his collar and takes a key ring in hand. He has too many keys to fit in his trouser

pocket. Every round is different. Sometimes he first goes over to the big, blocky buildings on Georges Köhler Allee. Other times they start at the old barracks buildings. After all, to catch prowlers, they want to remain unpredictable, explains Schneider. The moon shines above. Attila is unleashed and trots a few meters ahead, looking, then he turns his head and runs back to Schneider, who praises the dog. They walk several kilometers each night on their rounds.

While the two night watchmen walk around the compound with Attila, they rattle windows and doors to see if anything is unlocked. At the cafeteria, the mensa, they go in briefly. There are two aluminum trays with cat food in them on the stairs. Attila gives them a sniff. Schneider reports that there's a cat living on the campus called Garfield. "The students feed him and have even set up a website for him," he says. There are drink and snack machines on the ground floor of the mensa building. For awhile, there were incidents there. People kept climbing in and stealing things out of the machines.

Schneider has been working for the University of Freiburg for 27 years. When he started, he was

one of eleven night watchmen and did most of his rounds on Natural Sciences Campus, the Institutsviertel. He remembers his second night on the job there well. He says he was with a colleague doing rounds in Area D and saw light coming from under a door. "So we went in. And there were dead people lying there," he says. Schneider didn't know then that Area D was home to the Anatomy Institute of the Faculty of Medicine. He says he was still frightened when he told his wife about it the next morning at breakfast. "I told her, 'I won't stay there long.'" But Schneider remained.

Together around the clock

He worked in the Institutsviertel for almost 14 years. He was transferred to the Faculty of Engineering campus just after it was built near the airfield. He likes it there. And he's no longer afraid either. "I've got the dog with me," he says, looking down at Attila. Attila looks back up at him. The duo is a team that's together around the clock. Schneider says that when he gets home in the morning, he takes care of the dog first, then goes to bed himself. Around noontime they both get up, have something to eat, and then nap for one or two hours in the afternoon.

Isn't working when others are sleeping lonely? Schneider shakes his head and then nods towards to Attila. And he has someone from CDS with him almost every night. If they're not out and about doing their rounds of the compound, the night watchmen make themselves comfortable in the caretaker's office. They have a snack, read and chat amidst the rubber trees and shelves filled with loose-leaf binders. Attila settles down at Schneider's feet and relaxes a bit, but stays awake. Schneider says they pass the time quickly in this way.

The night watchman admits, however, that working nights has its drawbacks. His children didn't get to see much of their father. And besides, working night shifts for years has gradually taken its toll on his health. After all, at sixty, he's not the youngest anymore. He's already had three stents implanted, he says, and just after Christmas, he had a heart attack. As he talks, Schneider shrugs his shoulders, as if it weren't worth mentioning. "That's just the way it is," he says. He's set to retire in January 2018, when the nightly rounds for both him and Attila will come to an end.

Intercultural Inspiration

The ERASMUS+ exchange program paves the way for university administrative and technical staff to experience stays abroad



Discovering Europe: ERASMUS+ is open to all staff of the University of Freiburg. PHOTOS AND LAYOUT: SANDRA MEYNDT

by Lars Kirchberg

The European exchange program ERASMUS+ is not just designed to enable students and teachers to experience stays abroad. Since 2007 the EU Office of the University of Freiburg has helped university administrative and technical staff as well to benefit from the program. In line with its slogan, "From trainee to president," the program is open to everyone employed at the university. Potential participants basically have two options. Firstly, many European universities offer "Staff Training Weeks." As their name indicates, these are courses that usually focus on a specific topic, last up to one week and are designed for university staff from specific fields. By contrast, "Work Shadowing," the second option, demands slight-

ly more planning and initiative on the part of the staff member. Once they have applied successfully to their own university to take part in the program, they set off for up to five days abroad with a "Work Plan" – an individual working arrangement made in advance with the relevant host university – in their luggage. The criteria for a successful application include knowledge of the language of the host country, contact with the prospective university, and a willingness to host a visit in return. Once accommodation has been found in the host country, it's all systems go!

Enriching exchange

An administration assistant at the university's Faculty of Engineering, Marlis Jost, took part in a "Staff Training Week" at the Polytechnic University in Valencia, Spain, in March 2017. "It gave me valuable insight into work at other universities – both through campus life in Valencia and working with the inter-

national participants. I found the intercultural exchange very enriching and intense," she reports. A stay abroad offers staff the opportunity to make contacts throughout Europe as well. "We have formed an international network of hosts and participants, and will be keeping in contact," says Jost.

The value of an international exchange to campus life can also be seen from the experience of Berit Brauer, another administration assistant at the Faculty of Engineering. She undertook "Work Shadowing" in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2013. For her, their project Medarbetarskap – or "Personnel" in English – was especially inspiring as its aim was to create the best possible working environment for university staff. Reports Brauer, "It made me notice how alert, creative and productive work was there – to be excellent you also need excellent work conditions; it's about getting on together. Since this

concept of the working environment made sense to me, it made me think about what I could change for us on campus in the Faculty of Engineering." Now, she is coordinating the foodtruck scene on campus, which started in 2014 with the Ape-Café and other mobile providers. "It often brings life to the faculty at midday – people meet to drink coffee and have a chat, play frisbee in the summer – activity and communication, what more could you want?" she says.

Funding is provided for the stay abroad. Currently it is paid for under the federal state's law on travel expenses for business trips. In future, subsidies will be based on the cost of living in the relevant host countries. For instance, a subsidy of 100 euros per day will be paid for countries such as Croatia and Lithuania. Stays abroad in countries such as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, or Sweden will be subsidized at a rate of 160 euros per day. Participants also receive

payment towards travel expenses, depending on distance. A stay abroad can also count towards the "Intercultural Skills" certificate for university administrative and technical staff.

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The future needs a past

The Colloquium politicum and the rectorate are cooperating in launching a new series of lectures and debates about research, teaching and career paths at the university called Über Forschung, Lehre und Karrierewege – Zukunftsperspektiven der Universität Freiburg. The series has been introduced as part of the work on the university's latest strategy and development plan and the closely related preparations for the "Excellence Strategy" (Exzellenzstrategie) and "Promoting Junior Scholars Program" (Nachwuchsförderprogramm) competitions. What are the relevant topics and what are the university and higher educational

policies with respect to them? What is being worked on at the University of Freiburg? Lecturers from research, politics and society will elaborate on these questions. At the second event in the series on Thursday, 20 July, Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Barner will hold a lecture entitled Ein Alumnus im Universitätsrat und im Stifterverband: Ein dreifacher Blick auf die Uni Freiburg (An Alumnus on the University Council and the Donors' Association: A View of the University of Freiburg from Three Perspectives). The series is a supplementary offering for the university's Excellence Portal, which also provides information about the "Excellence Strategy."

> www.studiumgenerale.uni-freiburg.de/col-politicum/vortragsreihen/zukunft-uni
www.exzellenz.uni-freiburg.de

University Medal for Hideyo Kunieda

The Vice President of Nagoya University in Japan, Prof. Hideyo Kunieda, has been awarded the University Medal of the University of Freiburg. "With this award we are acknowledging the extraordinary commitment with which Hideyo Kunieda has for many years driven forward the key partnership between our universities," said Rector Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer. Kunieda has contributed significantly in particular to promoting joint research

groups and to initiating a joint program for doctoral candidates in medicine. In 2014, the universities deepened their cooperation with a "Memorandum of Understanding." Its aim is to support even closer academic cooperation between the research administrations of both partners, the intensification of exchanges of students, scholars and administrative staff, as well as the initiation of joint research projects.

University joins "Scholars at Risk"

The University of Freiburg has joined the "Scholars at Risk" network. The organization aims each year to make possible guest fellowships abroad for researchers who are threatened with war and political persecution in their homelands. More than 400 universities from around 40 countries belong to the network. "In many countries around the world, scholars are under particular threat of political oppression because of their critical mentality," said Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer, rector of the University of Freiburg. "As the University of Freiburg becomes a member of 'Scholars at Risk,' the institution is taking up its responsibility for colleagues who are threatened. It is sending an indisputable message that the freedom of research and teaching are non-negotiable," he continued. The first visiting fellows from the program have already arrived. The Arnold Bergstraesser Institute for Socio-Cultural Research (ABI) has successfully applied for a fellowship grant for a researcher from Burundi. The stipend came from the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, which was started by the Alexander Humboldt Foundation and the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Witness and respond

A study investigates how images influence motivation to engage in political protest

Images are ever present in the digital age. They influence human behavior and can motivate people to take part in public protests. A political scientist at the University of Freiburg, Prof. Dr. Diana Panke, is working together with a communications scientist in Münster, Associate Professor Dr. Stephanie Geise, and a political scientist, Dr. Axel Heck of the University of Kiel, to investigate how this mechanism works. Verena Adt spoke with Panke, who holds the Chair of Multi-Level Governance, about the pilot study.

Uni life: Frau Panke, how did this project start?

Diana Panke: We are investigating what role images play in people's willingness to engage in political protest. To do this, we are using eye-tracking devices. These make it possible to determine what part of a picture is seen by the observer and how long that element holds their gaze. When I was a senior fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), I learned that these devices exist. Axel Heck was a post doctoral student in my department back then. And I had the idea of developing a joint research project with him. When we looked into the possibility of eye-tracking, we went into the realm of communications science and that led us to Stephanie Geise. That's how the team got together.

What's new about your project?

We're doing some really complex experiments. First of all, we record the affective, reflexive reaction of our test subjects to the images that we show them. Then we observe how they cognitively process the affective reaction and whether this alters their readiness to take part in political protest. Communications science looks closely at the affective reaction. Political science, by contrast, examines intentional action. What's new is that we can bring the reflexive behavioral reaction together with intentional action.

What happens in an experiment like this?

The test subjects first fill out an online questionnaire and provide information about their age, level of education,



Was bewegt Menschen dazu, für ihre Ideale auf die Straße zu gehen? Für die Studie fragt das Team die Probanden, wie sie zu Bildung, Umwelt, Wirtschaft und Sicherheit stehen. PHOTO: THOMAS KUNZ



Spontane Reaktionen erheben: Diana Panke präsentiert den Teilnehmern unbekannte Bilder, die sich nicht ins kollektive Gedächtnis eingepägt haben. PHOTO: ANKE WIEDEMANN

political attitudes and priorities. In our pilot project, we're looking at four different policy areas: environment, economy, security and education. We show the test subject an image from one of these areas. Using the eye-tracking device we measure the direction of their gaze and duration of fixation on specific components of the image as well as the changes in the pupils of the

eyes as they observe the image. At the same time, someone from our team is sitting next to the test subject and asks questions about the person's spontaneous reactions to what they have seen. That's done four times for each text subject with one image each from the four policy areas. After this phase, in which we record above all the reflexive affective reaction of the test subject, a second online questionnaire for each of the policy areas is administered. It asks how important it is to the person and how great their motivation is to take part in political protest. By comparing the initial and final survey, we are able to determine if the person's readiness to engage in political protest has changed through seeing the image.

How do you choose the images for the experiment? Are they emblematic images that have been stamped into our collective memory?

You mean like the photo of the drowned, refugee child on the beach, or the East German soldier who is

jumping over barbed wire as the Berlin Wall is being built? No, we wouldn't use pictures like that for our experiment. They can't be iconographic. If the image is already familiar, then we cannot record an intuitive, spontaneous reaction. We choose our images with the help of data banks. The images should be as little-known as possible to ensure our experiment works.

Could you name several exemplary image subjects?

For each policy area, we select three different pictures. We try to choose pictures that are clearly positive, clearly negative and neutral. For environmental policy, it could be a pretty picture of a natural setting, perhaps a salt flat or the alps. Those would be examples of positive images. If we're looking for an image that we expect will convey something negative to the observer, then we would find something depicting forest die back or a sea bird covered in oil. A neutral image for the environment would be a view of a cityscape with

some green in it, so not a purely natural environment, but not an environmental disaster either.

Which reactions do you expect?

In principle, we expect that clearly positive and clearly negative images will influence behavior and willingness to act more strongly. But we're also interested in whether negative or positive motivates more strongly and if there are conditions in which either one or the other becomes important. That's why we gather information on political attitudes and predispositions. Then we can look to see if a positive or a negative image, or the contrary, is more motivating for a person for whom environmental policy is very important.

WarteArt exhibition

Master's students of European Ethnology at the University of Freiburg held an exhibition entitled WarteArt at the university's Uniseum from 27 April to 28 May 2017. The exhibition showed images, everyday objects, short films and scenic presentations that addressed waiting and the behavior of those who wait. Waiting in traffic, at the doctor's office and the waiting of the elderly were the focus of the show. Aids to mark waiting periods in a creative way – Advent calendars, for example – were also on display. The project's goal was to summarize the students' field research. The show culminated a year-long seminar lead by Freiburg researcher Dr. Sarah May and her colleague Dr. Florian von Dobenack. The aim was to shed light on waiting as a cultural practice and to investigate different waiting strate-



PHOTO: UTE GÖBNER-HANSELMANN

gies. The Uniseum is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entry is free of charge.

www.uniseum.uni-freiburg.de

Ranked among the top four in Gründungsradar

The Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft, a German organization for promotion of research and higher education, has for the first time placed the University of Freiburg in the top four universities in its latest Gründungsradar. Freiburg was considered in the category "large universities," which are those with more than 15 thousand students. The latest ranking in the third to be conducted. Commissioned by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), it examines how well universities contribute to the processes of starting enterprises in the economy. Compared to 2012, the University of Freiburg has

improved its position by 25 percent, a greater advance than any other university in its category. This success can be attributed above all to the funding the university has been receiving from the BMWi since 2013 under the auspices of the ministry's EXIST-Gründungskultur – Die Gründerhochschule competition, which awards funding to institutions of higher education for promoting the transfer of research into business.

www.gruenden.uni-freiburg.de

Grant for Fellowship Program

The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) has obtained a 2.4 million euro grant for the period from 2018 to 2022 from the Co-fund Program of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The aim of the European Commission program is to promote the mobility of researchers within Europe. FRIAS has already had success in the competition following the initial round of calls for applications from Co-Fund (2014 to 2018). Yet in the meantime, new, powerful research institutes for advanced studies have become established in Europe, meaning that getting a grant again this time was by no means a given. The success rate of applications for the latest Co-fund Program round was just under 20 percent.

www.frias.uni-freiburg.de

She really is smiling

Nearly all test subjects say the Mona Lisa's facial expression is happy

by Petra Völzing

People have been wondering about the Mona Lisa's smile for centuries. Is the woman Leonardo da Vinci immortalized in 1502 in an oil painting happy or sad? The lady's enigmatic smile is a prime example of ambiguity. Researchers at the Psychiatric Clinic of the Freiburg University Medical Center, the Institute of Psychology of Freiburg University, and the Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health (IGPP) used this characteristic for their research study. They want to get to the bottom of human perception. "Perception is a very painstaking process," says Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier, the head of the research group "Perception and Cognition" at the IGPP.

During visual perception, a section of the three-dimensional outer world is projected onto the retina and reduced to two dimensions. That is why cognitive, empirical values are required in order to complete perception in the brain. "But cognition doesn't help in every single case," explains Kornmeier. There are many optical illusions and the observers know that their perceptions are incorrect. But the illusion remains.



Is the Mona Lisa smiling or pouting? For their study, researchers manipulated the enigmatic expression one of the world's most famous faces. PHOTO: JOZEFKLOPACKA/FOTOLIA, MONTAGE: KATHRIN JACHMANN

"Our working hypothesis assumes that for the most part, sensory perception and the cognitive system function independently of one another," says Kornmeier. Cognition only evaluates perception.

Adjusting smile curvature

Starting from this assumption, the study's lead author, Emanuele Liaci, used an image processing program to minimally alter the Mona Lisa's smile. In the end, she had eight slightly different versions. In four of these, the Mona Lisa appears hap-

pier. In the others, she's sadder. The test subjects were then shown all nine images – the original and altered images – thirty times in random order to reduce the influence of the original image on their decision. They were asked to choose between "happy" or "sad" by clicking a mouse. Afterwards, they also had to say how certain they felt about their choice.

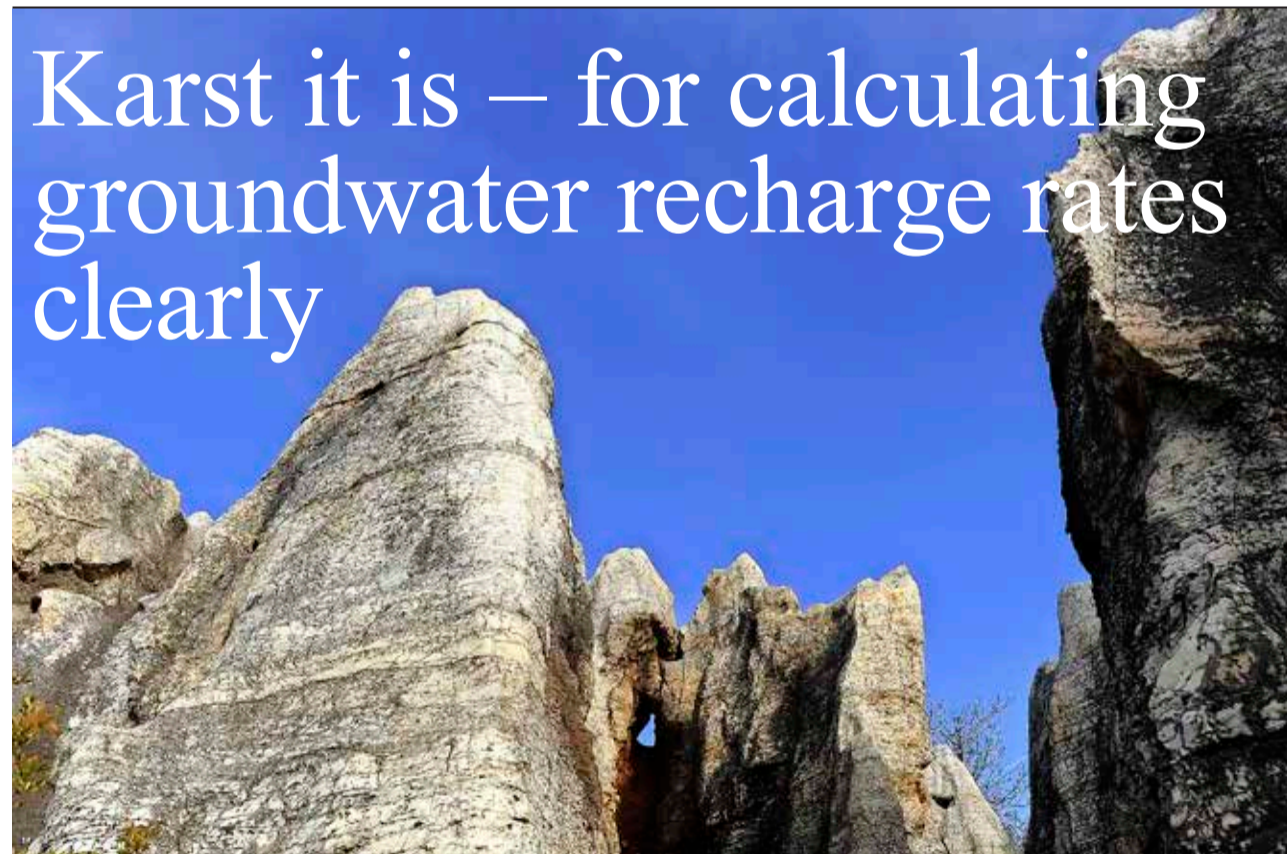
Says Liaci, "We didn't expect that almost all of the test subjects would rate the original as 'happy.'" Based on the fundamental hypothesis of ambiguity, a fifty-fifty result would

have been realistic. Because the ratings clearly favored "happy," the researchers then focused on the "sad" versions. Liaci then prepared four more intermediate versions and the experiment was repeated without the "happy" Mona Lisas. The result was surprising. The versions that the test subjects had already seen were now being perceived as happier. That showed that the stimulus range of the varied images influenced the perception of the individual image. Kornmeier summed up, saying, "There is no absolute perception of happiness or sadness."

The researchers say that the environment also has more influence on perception than previously thought. Whether a face is perceived as sad or happy seems furthermore to depend on how many sad or happy faces are to be seen at any given moment. Yet apparently the brain tends to classify a facial expression as happy rather than sad. This is supported by the finding that the test subjects said they were more certain and answered more quickly.

The study is part of a larger project on the processes of perception that Kornmeier and Prof. Dr. Ludger Tebartz van Elst of the Freiburg University Medical Center are supervising. Based on their findings in the Mona Lisa study, the researchers want to improve, among other things, the methods of diagnosing certain types of psychiatric disorders. "People with autism and certain kinds of schizophrenia have difficulty reading emotions on people's faces," says Kornmeier, that's why portraits with ambiguous emotional facial expressions, like the Mona Lisa, are well-suited for these experiments. Psychiatric diagnoses are still for the most part based on the results of questionnaires. The team's medium-term goal is to recognize reliable physiological markers in brain waves in order to be better able to diagnose psychological disorders.

Karst it is – for calculating groundwater recharge rates clearly



A new model allows for more reliable calculation of ground and drinking water quantities

by Thomas Goebel

Dr. Andreas Hartmann's research has existential significance and his line of inquiry is more complicated than it sounds: How much groundwater is available as drinking water in different regions around the globe? Working together with colleagues, the hydrologist from the University of Freiburg has developed a model that includes local substrate compositions. Adding this element allows groundwater recharge rates

to be calculated more precisely. It also improves capabilities for projecting the consequences of climate change.

Hartmann is a karst hydrologist. "Karst is limestone that has been dissolved and weathered by precipitation," he explains. He continues, "That's how special landforms are often created – enormous caverns and underground waterways." In Europe, karst can be found in Croatia, Slovenia or Spain, but also in the Swabian Jura. Some 30 percent of Europe's land area and 13 percent around the globe are places where limestone is prevalent, "... and, theoretically, karst as well, if it's been weathered enough," says the 37-year-old.

When it rains in a karst region, even large amounts of precipitation can get below the surface and into the groundwater quickly. "The water is less likely to run off close to the surface in rivers. And there's less evaporation," says Hartmann. That means more new groundwater is formed than would be in other regions. "That's why karst regions have very rich aquifers – as long as the water doesn't immediately flow out through channels in the karst or from large springs." There is a great deal of variability beneath the surface. Cavern systems and waterways in rock formations such as these are often difficult for researchers to investigate.

Karst regions make up about 30 percent of the European landmass – such as the Cerro del Hierro National Park near the Spanish city of Seville. PHOTO: JOSERPIZARRO/FOTOLIA

When he was writing his doctoral dissertation, Hartmann examined a range of karst systems in Europe and the Middle East, including the region around the source of the Jordan, parts of Austria, southern Spain, and in the Jura near Basel, Switzerland. He then went on to work on a project in cooperation with colleagues from Canada, England and Austria. Their aim was to develop a large-scale model for estimating groundwater recharge for all of Europe.

"The values generated by large-scale models until then just didn't make sense for karst regions," says Hartmann, "because they ignored the processes that take place due to the variability of the karst." That had long been known, but no suitable model had been developed for it, he adds. Hartmann and his team have created their model by including the variability of soil depth, the permeability of the rock and also account for some degree of uncertainty. The model region was divided up to include four types of karst: Mediterranean, alpine, desert and humid.

The researchers then compared their model with other conventional, large-scale models. "The differences were considerable," says Hartmann. "Our models for the regions considered showed four times more groundwater recharge. If you include climate change, then in future, it would even be five times more," he explains. Comparison with independent measurement data showed that the projections from Hartmann's model were significantly more realistic than those of standard models.

"If more groundwater is being recharged, then theoretically, more can be extracted without over exploiting the resource," says Hartmann. According to the new model, in purely statistical terms, a farmer in the Mediterranean region potentially has up to a million liters more groundwater available per year than previously estimated. "We're being very reserved about making statements like this," Hartmann emphasizes. On the one hand, the model does not consider the natural run off of groundwater. On the other hand, the actual extraction of groundwater is frequently regulated based on local experience anyway. "Nevertheless, our numbers could be helpful for regional or national water management," says Hartmann. After all, about one quarter of the world's population gets their drinking water either entirely or partly from karst aquifers.

More calculations

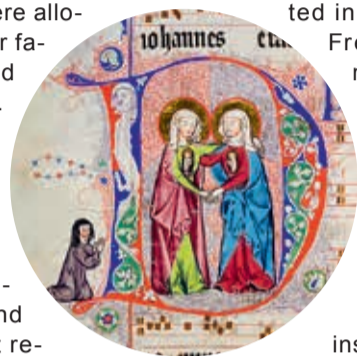
Hartmann and his colleagues are now working towards another project that will apply the new model globally. Measurement campaigns in five exemplary karst regions around the world are being considered for further development of the model: Berchtesgaden National Park, Andalusia, southwestern England, a desert region near Sydney, Australia, and in tropical Puerto Rico. Through its Emmy Noether Program, the Germany's national research association, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, has already approved a junior research group to be lead by Hartmann. The program includes 1.4 million euros of funding for a five year period.

Fur gloves and illegitimate sons

How women and men lived and worked in Medieval abbeys on the Upper Rhine

by Sonja Seidel

Elisabeth von Falkenstein would not allow men to tell her what to do. The abbess herself wanted to determine when the women in her convent would pray, if they were allowed contact with their families, and who would speak at assemblies. She did not rule with an iron fist. Instead, she worked together with her nuns to set the statutes for the cloister at Bad Säckingen. Does that sound like oppression? Not really, says Dr. Christine Kleinjung of the History Department at the University of Freiburg. "The bishops had the need to place a clear mark on the women. Yet in practice, life in Medieval convents was quite colorful," she says.



Initials from the choral hymn book of the former cloister at Wonnental bei Kenzingen. SOURCE: STATE LIBRARY OF BADEN (BADISCHE LANDESBIBLIOTHEK), DIGITAL COLLECTION

they allowed to own property? Which roles did they play in religious services?

At the center of Kleinjung's research are the convents in Bad Säckingen, Wonnental, Waldkirch and Sulzburg, all of which have been little researched until now. As canons in Bad Säckingen, the men and women in the cloister were a religious community and collaborated in celebrating masses. Frequently, however, men were only housed in women's convents for the purposes of saying mass, administering the sacraments or to hear confessions.

Kleinjung is gaining insight into how daily relations between the genders unfolded by researching in archives. She has consulted wills, letters, certificates and bills from the cloisters. They provide clues about what affected the women and which rights and privileges they enjoyed. "It's a

shame, but it's not like being in an open air museum, where you can figure everything out just by being on site," says Kleinjung. That simply isn't possible, she continues, mainly because the original buildings from the Middle Ages no longer exist – with the exception of the abbey church in Sulzburg. The researchers must decipher texts in order to experience a lost world.

Beyond individual fates

There is, for example a letter to the Pope from the women in the cloister at Bad Säckingen. In it, they ask if they may be allowed

to wear fur gloves in the winter. Another document reports that the abbess in Bad Säckingen gave birth to an illegitimate son, only to later house him within the abbey as a cleric. "We want to get away from stories of individual fates. Instead, we prefer to ask what light these individual cases can shed on social history," says Kleinjung.

The researcher is only just beginning her search for answers. How the research on women's cloisters in Freiburg continues also depends on the project's financing. Up to now, the University of Freiburg has provided 12,500 euros from the Innovation Endowment Fund. In the autumn of 2017, it will become clear if the German Research Foundation, the DFG, will continue to fund the project. The historian is hoping she'll get a green light. "Many of the sources that we've gathered have never been opened and were in archives until now. I'm expecting to still make a few more interesting discoveries," says Kleinjung.



Fridolin's Minister was the church of the cloister at Bad Säckingen – which was disbanded in 1806.. PHOTO: MANUEL SCHÖNFELD/FOTOLIA

Conflicts and cooperation

Kleinjung is currently working on a research project that is investigating the interaction between women and men in Medieval abbeys on the southern Upper Rhine. One of the questions Kleinjung wants to answer is if and how women adhered to the rules that men had made for them to follow. "For many years, only male religious communities or female religious communities were researched. By contrast, in this project, we're interested in how men and women lived together, what were the power relationships and hierarchies, and where was cooperation between them," Kleinjung explains. Were the women allowed contact with their families? Were

Evi Zemanek awarded Heinz Maier Leibnitz Prize

A junior professor of the University of Freiburg's Department of German, Dr. Evi Zemanek has been awarded a 2017 Heinz Maier Leibnitz Prize, which carries with it a grant of 20 thousand euros. A committee composed of people from the German Research Foundation, the DFG, and Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research selected Zemanek from a pool of 154 researchers. Zemanek has distinguished herself through diverse comparative studies of European literature and her

research on intermediality, specifically the relationships between literature and the visual arts. Thanks to the interdisciplinary, international cooperative research that she has initiated, Zemanek is known as the person who is paving the way for ecocriticism in Germany. The Heinz Maier Leibnitz Prize is among the most significant awards for junior researchers in Germany. It was conferred a total of ten times in 2017.

Evi Zemanek. PHOTO: PRIVATE



New projects on Upper Rhine

The monitoring committee of the INTERREG-VA-Upper-Rhine program has confirmed two grants totaling to nearly three million euros to fund cross-border projects. Around 950 thousand euros of that sum will be used to fund the "RMTMO RI" project dedicated to improved interconnection of research infrastructures. The aim of the three-year project is the development of a concept for innovative, cross-border research infrastructure on the Upper Rhine. The

project's funding institutions include all five member universities of the European Campus – among them the University of Freiburg – and nine further cooperating partner institutions. More than two million euros in funding were also approved for a transnational platform for sustainable viticulture known as VITIFUTUR. The project's main funding institution is the State Viticulture Institute Freiburg, which is cooperating with sixteen other partner institutions.

ERC Advanced Grant for Historian of Antiquity

Prof. Dr. Sitta von Reden of the Department of Ancient History of the University of Freiburg has received a 2.5 million euro Advanced Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) for her project Beyond the Silk Road. With her international multidisciplinary research team, von Reden plans to develop a comprehensive model of exchange between ancient empires. She will investigate the connections between economics, cultural



exchange, migration and the significance of border regions – precisely the factors which, among other things, made it possible for Chinese silk to reach Rome. The Advanced Grant is one of the most prestigious research awards in Europe. The ERC makes the grant to projects that promise to yield high scientific gain but also carry high risk.

Sitta von Reden. PHOTO: PRIVATE

Foundations extend Ecosystem Nutrition

Working in cooperation with the Swiss National Science Foundation, the German Research Foundation (DFG) has approved another three years of funding for the Current Priority Program (SPP) called Ecosystem Nutrition: Forest Strategies for Limited Phosphorus Resources. The foundations are providing almost 7.5 million euros in funding for further work, with the University of Freiburg receiving around two million euros of this sum. The program has

been ongoing since 2013. In it, scientists are researching the role the availability of phosphorus in the soil plays for trees and forests and which processes control the distribution of this vital nutrient in ecosystems. The program's spokesperson is Prof. Dr. Friederike Lang of Chair of Soil Ecology of the University of Freiburg.

> www.ecosystem-nutrition.uni-freiburg.de

Diversity in a toolbox

An online portal equips teaching staff with material on the topic of "Diversity in Teaching"

by Alexander Ochs

Freiburg boasts of having played a certain trailblazing role when it comes to equal opportunity in higher education. At first, the question of gender was the priority and the catchphrase was "equality for women." Since then, the issue has become much broader. Today it's all about understanding diversity. To put it in broad terms, the university is striving for an organizational culture that is oriented towards diversity.

In order to promote this, in the summer of 2015 the independent presentations (Referate) of the student government launched a project called Diversity Awareness at the University of Freiburg. The project is being implemented by Felix Wittenzellner of the Office of Gender and Diversity, who has developed a "toolbox" to help strengthen integration of the issue in teaching. Since April 2017, anyone who is interested can access the materials through an online portal.

But what is "diversity" actually all about? Germany's General Act on Equal Treatment prohibits discrimination based on these six characteristics: religion or belief, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender and sexual orientation. "In addition, there are further aspects that can determine academic success and performance or the lack of it - social background, for example," says



Promoting accessibility: the portal informs teachers about the range of services offered by the University of Freiburg, such as aids for students with a visual impairment. PHOTO: THOMAS KUNZ

Wittenzellner, "but also prior learning, the educational biography of every individual. We mean all of that when we say 'diversity.'"

Checklists, tips and reading lists

The Diversity in der Lehre (Diversity in Teaching) portal is designed for all teaching staff. It provides checklists, practical tips, a list of literature on the subject in depth, as well as internal and external links on how to handle diversity in teaching. It starts right with

the basics: does the teacher know about the consulting services available at the university if a student needs help or has questions on arrangements to compensate for disadvantages or on finding child care? How far can lecture halls or even exams be adapted to be accessible to all?

Teachers are encouraged to learn more in advance about whether the room where their class is being held is also suited for people with disabilities. Who knows which rooms can actually

rightly be called auditoriums because inductive loop systems have been installed? And if not, where can you get the right equipment? Wittenzellner knows – or at any rate, his toolbox can provide precise information about which lecture rooms have such technology and which don't.

A multi-purpose glossary

The offering is also meant to raise awareness of language, and that certain formulations and turns of phrase

can actually exclude some groups - expressions that many people are often unaware they're using. Wittenzellner says, "If I keep talking about 'der Professor' then people will tend to imagine a man rather than a woman," explains Wittenzellner, referring to the gendered German term. How is language to be formulated so that no one feels disadvantaged and everyone feels included? To answer questions like that, the toolbox has a glossary, which explains concepts such as 'migration background' or 'accessibility'.

What is meant, after all, by accessible examinations? "Ideally, a range of test formats and times would be available for the same exam," explains Wittenzellner. That would be helpful for all those students who have a phobia about taking exams or cannot take the exam on an appointed day because they are caring for children or family members.

"We don't expect the toolbox to be completed someday, we're just trying to provide tips and practical advice for actual areas of activity in teaching," says Wittenzellner. Guidelines and learning modules are being developed – and the toolbox is getting a boost, as the project has been extended to run until 2018.

www.diversity.uni-freiburg.de/Lehre

From Claude to Lothar

Students have researched how Baden's administrators behaved in the Alsace region during the National Socialist regime

by Anita Ruffer

There are number of ways to research history. Some bury themselves in archives and write essays at home – essays, that few read. Johannes Heitmann, by contrast, interviewed his grandfather Heiko Heitmann and published his findings in a blog. Heiko told his grandson of his experience of the German occupation of Thann in Alsace. It's a prime example of the method known as "public history," which uses people's life experiences as a source. The history of Alsace during the National Socialist period was the topic of a graduate seminar that Johannes, soon to be a history teacher, took with Prof. Dr. Sylvia Paletschek and her colleague, Dr. Marie Muschalek. "We were on the look out for other forms of processing and conveying historical research," explains Muschalek. As a doctoral candidate in the US, Muschalek had quite a bit to do with new media. A blog is replacing the essay, for example. It fit in this case, as well. Especially since there was already a website on which the blog could be published.

The Ministry of Science of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg wanted to initiate more research into how the National Socialists ruled. Several universities, including the University of Freiburg, took part in the "public history"



From Saarbrücken to Alt-Thann: Heiko Heitmann (left) moved to Alsace in 1942 with his mother, Gerta (second from left), and father, Christian, (center). Heiko's friend Claude can be seen on the right. Two years later, the family fled as Allied US forces approached. PHOTO: PRIVATE

website program. The researchers were tidying up their own front steps, so to speak. The histories of the state ministries of Baden and Württemberg during the National Socialist regime were the subject of their investigations. Alsace was part of the area back then. The Nazis occupied it from 1940 to 1944. Hitler gave the leader, or gauleiter, of Baden far-reaching powers to administer the occupied territory.

"Not everything was controlled from Berlin," Muschalek points out. Wagner moved his people from the ministries and the party into Alsace, which in international legal terms was by no means part of the German Reich. Studying how they operated tells historians a great deal. How they behaved, how much freedom they derived to act, even though they were all Nazis. A "Cultural History of Administrative Operations"

is to be published when the project is complete. The account could show how National Socialist ideology softly crept into life through mundane administrative acts.

Heiko Heitmann is now 85 years old. What he told his grandson, Johannes, provides first-hand insight into how the Baden's Nazis behaved in a region whose identity had always been split between France and Germany. There was, for example, a neighbor in Thann who had lost two of her sons. The first, a French soldier, was shot by the Germans. The second was killed as a German soldier fighting on the Eastern front.

Making sources accessible to everyone

Grandson Johannes came to the following realization: "The Germans were continually trying to sense just how far they could go with their repression. After all, they wanted to make the people of Alsace into loyal, German "national comrades." A friend of the grandfather, Claude, had his name changed to Lothar by fiat. German first names were ordered by decree. Bathroom faucets could no longer be labeled froid (cold) and chaud (hot). The attempt to ban everything French from Alsace, while French was still being taught at schools in the Third Reich, led to all sorts of curiosities.

Baden's authorities behaved in a similar way when they introduced the Hitler Youth in Alsace. Says Heiko Heitmann, "Everyone had to join, unlike in the other occupied western territories." A field trip by the seminar to the French city of Strasbourg made clear how the Nazis attempted to co-opt for themselves the Alsace's struggle for its own identity. Without consideration, the Place Kléber (Kléber Square) was renamed Karl-Roos-Platz – after an allegedly "German" martyr. The French, however, actually executed Karl Roos, who was driven to preserve Alsace's own, unique identity.

The students examined run-of-the-mill, administrative sources, which they have analyzed and presented in a way that makes them accessible to everyone. The documents show, for example, that one man couldn't build a care home from his wood ration coupons because he had to build too many coffins. After the war, no one wanted to be a Nazi anymore, as Johannes Heitmann discovered when he examined the files from Baden's denazification tribunals. Says the younger Heitmann, "It is amazing how the way people presented themselves changed."

www.ns-ministerien-bw.de

Structure in a cacophony of voices



Commentaries on the War: Together with Johanna Pink and Ruth Bartholomä, students translated and analyzed articles about the war in Syria and the Kurdish conflict. PHOTO: JURGEN GOCKE

Students translate news articles from Turkish and Arabic – texts are available on website

by Thomas Goebel

The lede sentence from one Arabic newspaper already posed a challenge: "A row of yellow crates on the way to burial" is a reminder for Iran and its militias in Syria of how it is without Russian support. Maren Bagdahn first translated the sentence word-for-word. But what could "yellow crates" mean? Bagdahn researched the topic and in the final version of her translation chose "a row of coffins." In a footnote she explained that the linguistic image in the source text referred to yellow Hezbollah flags covering fighters' coffins.

"My goal was to produce a German text that reads well," said Bagdahn, a Master's student of Islamic studies at the University of Freiburg. The article from the Lebanese newspaper Al-Mustaqbal was an editorial that was critical of Iran. Bagdahn's translation and a detailed commentary for it can now be read on a website. Bagdahn says, "The comments classify linguistic features and allusions and explain the topic's context."

Political relevance

The website resulted from a seminar that took place during the summer semester of 2016. Entitled "The War in Syria from an Arabic and Turkish Perspective," it was aimed at advanced Bachelor's and Master's students. "We always try to work with original language sources," says Johanna Pink, a professor of Islamic studies of the Oriental Seminar of the University of Freiburg. She explains, "In this seminar, we also wanted to offer an actual, politically relevant issue."

Pink and her colleague, junior professor Ruth Bartholomä, then put their heads together and decided that the seminar results were to be published on the Internet. They entered their concept in the "Innovative Studies" project competition of the Freiburg student government (StuRa) and won. This provided additional financing for research assistant Olmo Gözl, who supported the students in preparing their work for the website. Pink says,

"We wanted it to become something that the public could read rather than just one or two lecturers. Tutors who were native-speakers of Arabic and Turkish also assisted with the seminar.

Searching, finding and selecting

"Our initial question was 'How do countries where many refugees live and that are geographically much closer than we are to the Syrian war report on it?'" says Bartholomä. The seminar's 17 participants spent their first sessions becoming familiar with the media landscapes in Lebanon and Turkey, and the fundamentals of the conflict in Syria.

They then went on to search for and select the newspaper articles that they wanted to translate and comment on. Pink says, "We consciously let the students choose." She adds that the research done on Lebanese and Turkish media websites was not exactly easy. Master's student Nina Schad explains, "I found searching for Arabic sources quite challenging." She chose an article from the Lebanese newspaper, An-Nahār, about the role of the European Union.

The topics ranged from the handling of refugees to the Kurdish conflict to the use of poison gas in the Syrian war. The original texts are linked to the now finished website, which includes a translation, short abstract, detailed commentary, summary and bibliographical references for each article. Gözl and the students edited the final versions of the texts together.

"We discussed the first drafts of the translations together in the seminar sessions," says Bartholomä, "and the tutorials were important as well." She added that some of the Bachelor's students had completed only one year of language instruction, so it was a big leap for them to translate a text that read well. The commentaries were prepared during the semester break.

Applying everything

"You can work for half an hour to translate a long Turkish sentence," confirmed Kirsten Kreher. The Bachelor's student translated an article about deaths among Syrian

asylum seekers that appeared in the Turkish opposition newspaper Evrensel. She went on to say that classifying the article was also labor intensive, but very exciting. "We analyzed freedom of the press in Turkey, for example, and we asked ourselves which sources were named and how we could determine if they were reliable," Kreher says.

According to Pink, a seminar like this one was certainly more time consuming than the average course for teachers and students alike. Nevertheless, she added, she would like to do another one like it at the next opportunity. Kreher summed up, saying it was worth it. "For me it was the seminar during which I could apply everything that I have learned up to now."

www.orient.uni-freiburg.de/syrienprojekt

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House & Garden

Two history students have built a Roman villa out of Lego bricks

by Mariella Hutt

The ancient villa with luxurious furnishings and a spacious park is a popular place to take friends and family who are visiting southern Germany. Two history students, Oliver Isensee and Kevin Walter of the University of Freiburg, have visited the Villa Urbana Roman Museum in Heitersheim many times. Then last August, they suddenly had the idea, "Wouldn't it be great to present history in an interactive way to liven it up a bit?" And what if they used the familiar, trusty villa as a model? An experienced model builder, Walter came up with what they should use for a building material – nothing other than Lego.

First they went to the museum and photographed the plastic model there. They then used those images to create a virtual model on a computer to use as their blueprint. After all the preparations, they got to work. It took Isensee and Walter two weekends to assemble the villa. Of course, a few friends and neighbors helped, too. In the end, almost 20 thousand pieces of Lego were used to build the ornamental pool, columns, walls, hallways and various rooms.

Built with donations

The only detail they left out was the basement below the pavilion behind the villa. "Otherwise, we would have had to make the model taller, and that would've been a lot more work. And it would've driven up the costs, too," Walter explains. Speaking of finances, the Public BRICKstory project has cost 1,900 euros so far, and the planned furnishing of the rooms – with Roman couches, wall paneling and mosaic floors will cost an



Architects with fine motor skills: Oliver Isensee (left) and Kevin Walter worked for seven months to build a replica of a Roman villa using Lego.

PHOTO: JÜRGEN GÖCKE

estimated additional 1,000 euros. The project was financed by donations from the Chlausdig Stammtisch, a group of entrepreneurs from the region who meet regularly, and the mayor of Heitersheim, Martin Löffler, as well as the historical society. The team also received private donations.

A playful way to learn

Before the model could be put on display, the two builders had to take

their Lego villa apart to move it from Isensee's apartment in Pfaffenweiler to the museum. At the museum, visiting school pupils and others will be able to furnish the model's rooms while learning about the typical interior of a Roman villa and Roman religious concepts as well. This is what both students wanted to achieve. The project enables anyone who's interested to experience history in a different way. It gives them a new perspective on the whole thing. "Of

course, visitors are welcome to play with the model, as long as they're careful. Lego is a toy, after all, and we don't want to take away that aspect," says Isensee.

Miniature masterpiece at the museum

Visitors will be able to see and play with the Lego model from 1 April 2017 to 31 October 2018. It can be found in the basement of the Villa Urbana Roman Museum. "It's great that we

managed our first project with such success, even though it was more or less an experiment," Walter says. "How the whole thing will continue to develop is also dependent on how visitors respond to the model," he adds. After the exhibition, the two students will dismantle the villa and may use the building material for another construction project.

win a voucher!

Office supplies, bibs and a rubber duck

At the University of Freiburg's uni'shop you can find more than just what you need for daily life on campus. The uni'shop has a broad selection of useful items for every stage in life. In this series uni'life introduces some of its products and raffles off gift certificates.

Light and noise – an audio-visual package

by Martin Jost

Probably don't need to hard-sell this to you. After all, I bet you've been cycling since you could walk. And cycling isn't just about getting from point A to point B -- it keeps you fit, too.

A town where only cyclists lived would be a paradise. Everyone would be healthy and well-adjusted. You'd save on car insurance and gas, and use the money to buy nice things. And everyone would get where they need to on time. If it weren't for reality getting in the way. Our streets and thoroughfares are full. Cars tailgate and pedestrians get in your way. That's when it's most important to be noticed, "I'm here, too!" at the very least. The University of Freiburg's uni'shop has just what you need to make sure you don't get overlooked.



Make way! Reflective snap wraps and a bicycle bell help cyclists make their way to lectures. PHOTO: THOMAS KUNZ

If you've been out and about with a slim, inconspicuous bicycle – slim and inconspicuous compared to a car at least – and it's dark or twilight, then you know you can never be too bright. Time and again, you find yourself in situations that come

perilously close, when you think, "He should've seen me." These reflective snap wraps make you far more visible. And you can add to the regulatory lighting for your bicycle by placing reflectors on your body, too. "Snap" is the sound these arm/

leg bands make when you wrap them around your arm or your leg. They're quick and easy to put on, and at 1.50 euros a piece, they're cheap, too. So why not buy several and put them on all over. Remember, "Be safe, be seen".

Shouting is not stylish

A bicycle is not only an emission-free vehicle, it's quiet, too. And usually that's a blessing. But when our route is crowded with pedestrians who can't hear us coming, then it's a curse. You could clear your throat forcefully, politely address the strollers, or imitate a bell and shout "dingaling". But no matter how you do it, using your voice to get people to make way isn't very stylish.

The second drawback is that you need to have a voice like a foghorn to penetrate the music coming out of some people's headphones. That's when you can't beat the good, old, tried-and-tested bicycle bell. It

produces a sound that's shrill enough to get the attention of earbud headphone wearers while managing not to make you look too pushy. At the uni'shop you can buy a shiny chrome model with the university logo on it.

We hope this audio-visual package will help you arrive safe and sound and on time for your next lecture.

Prize draw!

Win two 25 euro gift certificates for the uni'shop. Send an email to unileben@pr.uni-freiburg.de by 23 June.

The draw for the gift certificate will be made from all emails received by the deadline.

www.shop.uni-freiburg.de

Office hours for hope

Law students have provided advice for more than one hundred refugees – and it looks like they will advise many more

by Lars Kirchberg

The office at Schwabentorring 2 is open. It's Friday at noon. The first visitors seeking counsel wait in the foyer. Five Freiburg law students divided into two teams are sitting in the office at the end of the corridor. The sun is shining and people have hot drinks. The atmosphere is calm and relaxed. You could almost forget that for the next two hours the conversations will revolve around people's fates. Sajjad A. has come along with his former counselor. The two have known each other for several years, and what was once a professional relationship has developed into friendship. Sajjad is from Pakistan and has lived in Germany for four years. He left his home country at the age of sixteen and headed west. "My uncle said I would get a good education in Germany," says Sajjad. He travelled for many months to achieve his dream.



What do you need to know when applying for asylum? Students help people seeking advice as they make their way through the German administrative jungle.

PHOTO: INGEBORG LEHMANN

They have yet to be properly qualified, so they're still not allowed to provide legal representation. "We're acting more as assessors than as legal counsel," Witt emphasizes. "When we have specific or deeper issues to address, we often contact the person again after doing more thorough research," she says. For urgent matters, the students have a good network of lawyers specialized in the appropriate areas. Most of those seeking counsel are at the stage between having applied for asylum and the BAMF hearing that decides their fate. "We can explain to them, for instance, what is important for a substantiated asylum application, because a lot of people don't know what is decisive and what isn't," reports Paul König. The team acts as a guide for asylum seekers as they navigate their way through the German administrative jungle. One thing they do, for instance, is to accompany their clients to important appointments. It's the simple things that count the most.

Free service

Despite their limited capabilities, the students' office hours are fully booked. Word has gotten around about their free service, and they have already helped more than a hundred refugees. Although they are volunteers, they dedicate a great deal of time to their work. Even though they receive little or no academic credit for it, they are sticking to it. They all agree that it is very rewarding to help other people; that it feels good to do good. But there's no time to digress. There's a knock at the door. Another group of people is seeking advice. This time it's a Roma family from Serbia.

Four-month deadline

Mostly he travelled in the company of families, staying for a few weeks in one country before moving on to another. In order to travel hassle-free, he needed a passport that proved he was of legal age. He got one quickly. "It's not hard to get your hands on fake documents," he says. But now that could cost him the chance of getting a residence permit in Germany. Up until recently the permit was extended every six months, but now the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is giving him trouble. Because Sajjad did not enter the country on account of political or religious persecution, his chances of staying in Germany are limited. But if he can prove he is not yet 21 years old, he has good

prospects. The BAMF has given him four months to do that.

That's why Sajjad is sitting here now in the association's counseling center, just three weeks before his 21st birthday. And yet he could be a poster child for integration: he speaks German with almost no accent and already has a diploma from an international school. At the end of 2016 he started training to become a nurse. Should all of his efforts fail because of a fake birth date? "I don't have much hope of getting a passport," he admits with resignation. Isabel Kienzle from the counseling team, however, is more optimistic. "Because of his successful integration, he has very good

chances of being able to stay. The first order of business is to check the agency's set deadline," says the law student, pointing out to Sajjad that deportation is extremely difficult without a passport. Her words have an encouraging effect on him. He is planning on going to Frankfurt in the next few days to visit the Pakistani General Consulate.

Stay objective – no matter what

There are a lot of cases like that of Sajjad A., but not all are as promising as his. The counselors speak of some tales that have really gotten under their skin. Stories of families torn apart and of capsized boats on the Mediterranean, of child soldiers

and of fathers who sell their daughters to pay off their gambling debts, of those tortured by Taliban militia for being "traitors". "When you're sitting opposite from someone so traumatized you are often at a loss for words," explains Jakob Gauli. "Personally, you feel really sorry for the person, but at the same time you have to watch out that you offer objective counsel," he explains. Luise Witt emphasizes the human aspect of the association's work. Her team has had "the experience that many are simply glad to have someone to speak to about what happened to them."

But in many cases, the young law students feel their hands are tied.

<http://rlc-freiburg.org>

Raspberry

University of Freiburg receives collection of ardent Rolling Stones' fan

More than 15 thousand recordings, pins, fan letters, books, posters, T-shirts – even a pinball machine. The Reinhold Karpp Rolling Stones Collection includes anything a passionate 'Stones fan could desire. The Center for Popular Culture and Music (ZPKM) of the University of Freiburg has what may be the most unique collection of Rolling Stones memorabilia around. The items were given to the university on permanent loan by the family of the late Reinhold Karpp, who followed the band everywhere. Until recently, the collection remained safely stored in about 100 boxes. But the researchers are unpacking it now. Uni'Life gets a glimpse what they are finding.

Collectors' items, cushions, a mouse pad: The researchers say they want to use the collection to explore social practices, among other things, such as the different ways people come

PHOTOS: MAX ORLICH



The pinball machine is one of the collection's highlights. When a player loses, it plays I Can't Get No Satisfaction.

The best of friends: Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.



During the course of his life, Reinhold Karpp went to more than 130 Rolling Stones concerts all around the world and brought back memorabilia with him.

www.zpkm.uni-freiburg.de

One moment please, while we save the world



Winfried Kern looks at a continent afflicted by an epidemic. Berit Lange has an idea where she could find a cure. PHOTOS: KLAUS POLKOWSKI

The analysis

The doctors agree. The game shows that cooperation between different organizations is decisive in combating epidemics and pandemics, meaning a solid infrastructure is indispensable. "Patient care has to be so well set up that the reaction can be flexible," explains Lange. If a health care system is already overloaded with general healthcare – with births and malaria infections – then they don't have a hope of controlling the spread of an epidemic. She continues, "Then, many people won't end up dying in a certain epidemic. Instead, the fatalities will come because regular medical care could no longer be provided. We saw that a few years ago during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, for example."

Even the most modern of systems that predict how and epidemic will spread are often unreliable, emphasizes Kern. "An epidemic can be completely unpredictable. A virus can mutate, for example. And even if you're successful in finding a vaccine, you still need lots of time to make it and even more time to get it into all the affected regions," he adds. The game imitates this race against time. "The question is whether the virus will spread faster than population manages to become immune to it," he says.

By the way, Kern and Lange regularly rehearse for handling real life emergencies like these. Different departments of

Four epidemics simultaneously threaten humanity – Pandemic shows rescue team's tactical approach

by Rimma Gerenstein

In the "Abgezockt!" series, members of the uni leben editorial team meet with University of Freiburg researchers to play a game. The aim is to shed light on board games from an academic perspective. Or something like that. The game

Four epidemics are spreading on five continents in all. They are threatening to wipe out humanity entirely. It may sound like a blockbuster film, but in Pandemic all the action takes place on a game board. A special team jets around the globe in order to contain the virus and find the appropriate cure. And each and every move can result in further contagion and outbreaks. It's not a game for the faint hearted. Teamwork pays off. If the players fail to agree on each and every move, they end up facing the Last Judgment.

The players

Prof. Dr. Winfried Kern and Dr. Berit Lange of the Infectious Disease Department, Freiburg University Medical Center, and Nicolas Scherger and Sonja Seidel of the Office of Press and Public Relations took on the challenge.

The procedure

Hollywood seems to have internalized something. The worse the state of the world, the greater the degree of "shock and awe" there are on movie screens. In 12 Monkeys, trigger-happy Bruce Willis travels back in time from the year 2035. He returns to the 1990s to find out why a virus mowed down more than five billion people. In I am Legend, Will Smith plays the last human left alive on earth. He deals with this by gunning down zombies by the score – zombies who were human before being infected with a plague. Winfried Kern takes a more phlegmatic approach. "What virus is it, actually?" asks the doctor before he draws the first card. "And how does it spread?" Droplets, smears or contact infection?

Medical details play a secondary role in Pandemic. But plague is plague and a cure must be found – then all will be well. "That's extremely unrealistic," argues Lange. "A vaccine will never work for 100 percent of the population. You can be happy if you reduce the number of new infections in order to control the spread of the epidemic," she says.

Speaking of containment, there's a map of the world on the board. Colorful cubes representing different epidemics are distributed across it and announce the arrival of a threat. São Paulo, Dublin, Bogotá, Hong Kong, Paris, Washington and Ho Chi Minh City have all been hit. It's time to raise the curtain and bring in

the rescue team. Each player receives a card telling them the role they must play. Kern is a "researcher." Sonja Seidel must be a "quarantine specialist." Lange is a "scientist." And Nicolas Scherger plays a "contingency planner." And just as in the world of super heroes, each person has a special power. As a researcher, for example, Kern can pass on city cards to other players as often as he likes, giving the team an advantage when it has to race from city to city to brew up different vaccines in a range of research centers. But it's still not that simple. The center needs to be located near the relevant area of outbreak and the players can only exchange the required information – their cards – when their paths cross in the same city.

Kern has a concerned eye on North Africa. The black plague cubes are densely spread across the region. "Something has to be done there. That's a very critical situation," he says. Especially, because after each move, there's an "infection phase" that accelerates the spread of the disease. Contingency planner Scherger uses his special power and draws from the deck of already used flights. He's found a good connection for Lange. "Don't worry," she jokes, "I won't use the free flight to have a holiday." In just a few moves, the doctor is in the area affected by the outbreak. Kern is already there waiting for her, in order to give her the highly prized card for Riyadh.

Why is the Riyadh card so important? Because it's black, like the cubes. And if

a player has in their hand five cards of one color, then they can build a research center, in order to later develop a vaccine against the black plague. As a scientist, Lange's special power is that



The players have to hop from metropolis to metropolis to contain the virus – the cards drawn provide various travel options.

she only needs four cards of the same color to build a research center. And Seidel has already positioned herself in a place where her route and Lange's will cross, meaning she can hand over her black cards to Lange, who will then have enough for a center. After a few more moves, there's a vaccine. The black peril has been avoided and the players sigh with relief. But there's little time to celebrate, because the other three epidemics continue to spread. Cooperation is worth it. By coordinating their moves with each other, the team manages to find all the cures in just over an hour. Almost eight million lives have been saved. It was a service the team was pleased to perform.

the Freiburg University Medical Center – including doctors and nursing and cleaning staff – practice what must done when a patient comes in showing symptoms of a highly contagious virus. "Until now we've never had any cases of yellow or lassa fever in Freiburg," says Kern and knocks on the wooden table, "but a call could come from the emergency room at any minute."

„Pandemie“,
Pegasus Games
www.pegasus.de

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Fees for international students and those studying for a second degree

Starting with the winter semester of 2017/2018, the state of Baden-Württemberg is introducing fees for international students and students pursuing a second degree. Affected are students that are not citizens of a member country of the European Union or another contracted member state of the European Economic Area. A charge of 1,500 euros per semester is planned in addition to the usual

semester contributions. In accordance with the new draft law, all students who already have a university degree and start studying for second degree must pay fees of 650 euros per semester. For more information please see the university's online portal about the new rules

New equipment to aid study

The University of Freiburg has created a pool of helpful learning aids for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Students can sign the equipment out on loan for use during classes, exams and in the libraries. Available are a high-performance laptop with special programs for use by visually handicapped students. The programs enable the print of texts to be enlarged or actually read the text aloud. They

also include a camera system that can photograph handouts and images on the blackboard. A Braille line is also available for reproducing texts in Braille. A wireless audio transmission device can additionally be taken out on loan. The equipment was selected and tested in cooperation with those who will use it and the administrative department for information technology of the university library.

Orientation at just the right time

Freiburg Research Services offers post-doctoral students an expanded program in the summer semester of 2017

by Lars Kirchberg

The Freiburg Research Services (FRS) of the University of Freiburg is expanding its program for post-doctoral students. Currently, more than 20 activities are planned for the summer semester of 2017. All are free of charge. The aim is to provide young researchers with orientation in the critical phase after they have received their degrees. For many new Ph.D.s, it is a time of unclarity: Should they pursue a career in research, or perhaps leave academe for private industry? "We've taken a look at where there's need," says Julia Michael of the FRS. "We would like to help postdocs to develop an awareness of their own potential in order to reach good decisions," she says.

Individualized coaching

There is something in the program for everyone, whether it is assessing potential or workshops about establishing networks and beyond to activities addressing academic and non-academic career paths. Even the needs of experienced postdocs have been considered. There are sessions, for example, that cover making offers, provide advice on applying for third-party funding, and how to manage research projects or project staff. Some of the workshops last two days. Otherwise, the emphasis is on shorter



Enjoying lunch while learning: The new "brown bag" event format brings junior researchers together in a relaxed atmosphere while presenting topics about a research career path. PHOTO: KLAUS POLKOWSKI

formats. "Postdocs don't tend to have a lot of time. That's why we're ensuring that the quality of the offering is really suitable," says Michael. The team wanted to present events that left participants saying afterwards, "That really took me a step further."

The team at FRS cooperated with a variety of trainers, some of them from private business, in developing the workshops. "What's particularly important to us is that they have already had experience in a university context," explains Michael. Among the

novelties this summer semester are individual coaching sessions. Michael says the demand for these is very high and that registrations came in one after the other. "With the help of professional coaches, we would like to offer postdocs an opportunity reflect on

career plans as well as important decisions with respect to their further professional development, or to gain some clarity regarding their own priorities," Michael elaborates.

The postdocs are welcoming the opportunities the program provides, and the FRS team has made it their priority to continually fine tune and expand the offering. "It's all very well organized. Registration is fairly simple and group size – about twelve participants -- is really nice," says Julia Binkenstein, who for nearly a year has been a post-doctoral student at the Institute for Nature Conservation and Landscape Preservation. "I'm trying to take part in all of it, because it's free of charge and of top quality. The consultants are professionals through and through." There's great interest in some of the topics, especially to do with things you need in your career, like executive level management or the basics of business administration. "Those are all topics that you're not confronted with when you're sitting in an ivory tower," says Arun D'Souza, a post-doctoral student at the Institute of Psychology. He's convinced that the offering is expanding his "own horizon for the world beyond the university."

And in order to meet the needs of postdocs who are parents, FRS is cooperating with the university's Family Services Office. Financial support is being provided for child care during the events and activities.

www.frs.uni-freiburg.de/kurse_postdocs

Working out at work

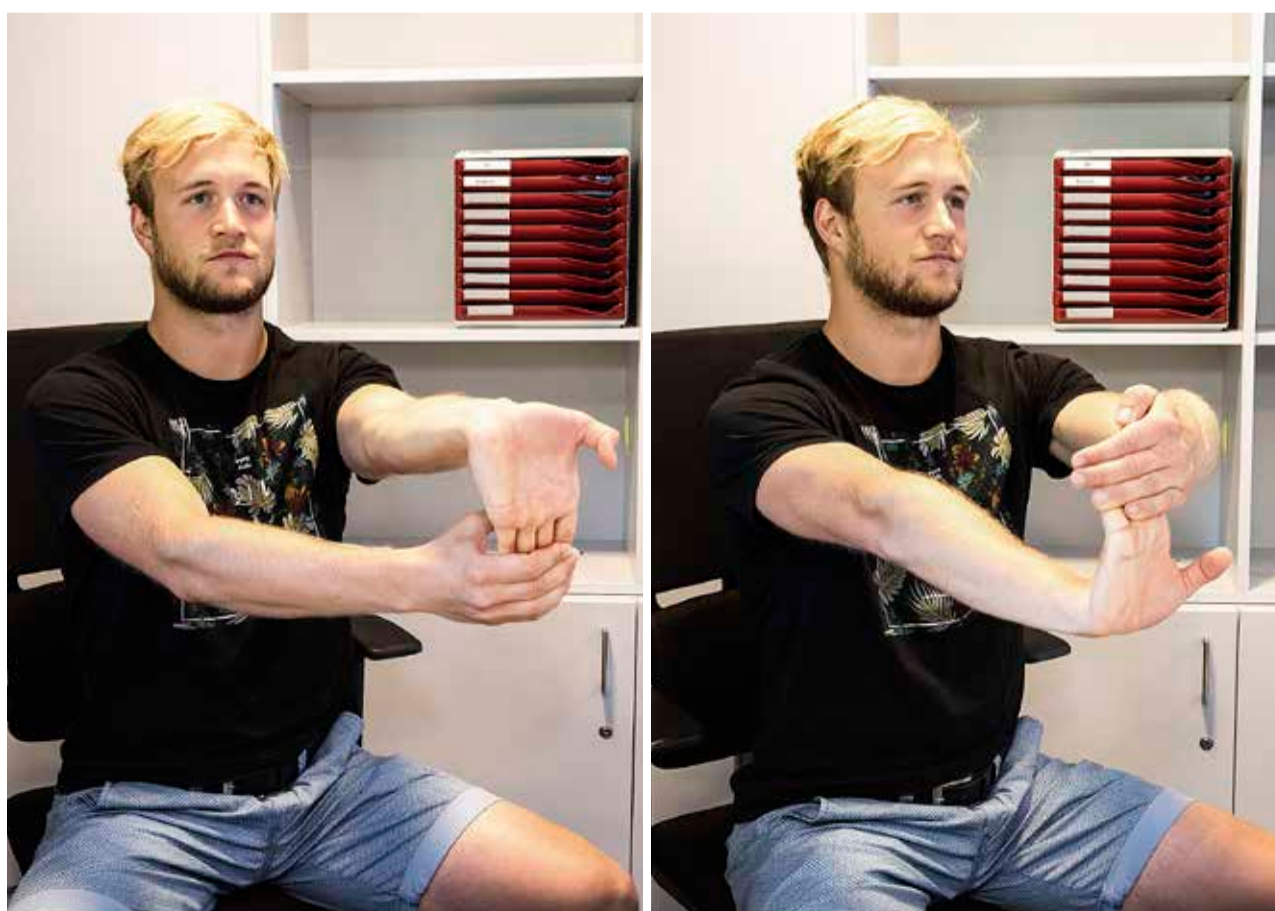
Students and office workers often spend hours sitting motionless with their eyes fixed on their computer screens. As deadlines and examinations approach, the time for relaxation shrinks to nil. It's no wonder, then, that back pain, stiff necks, headaches or simply a general sense of being unwell caused by sluggish circulation, can set in over time. Finding relief for these aches and pains isn't difficult. The staff of the Fitness & Health Center (FGZ) of the University of Freiburg has presented a series of exercises that can easily be done at your desk at any time.

Forearm stretches for relaxed, fluid typing

by Petra Völzing

The most important tool for people who use their heads at work is their hands. They rapidly transcribe attained knowledge into the computer. And while that's going on, the forearms are often held motionless, in the same position for hours – at the desk or hovering above the keyboard. One hand is frozen over the mouse, and if the height of the desk is unsuitable, the forearm may also rest heavily on the edge of the desk. All these factors impede circulation of blood into the upper extremities. The hands don't just become cold, working like this can also shorten the tendons in the hands and forearms or cause tendonitis.

Regularly stretching the hands and forearms while working at a desk can prevent this. So sit up straight on the edge of your chair. Extend one arm in front of you with your palm facing up. Extend the fingers away from you and towards the floor. Use the other hand to gently press the fingers towards your body. This powerfully stretches



Extend and stretch: Regularly stretching your hands and forearms is a way to avoid shortening of the tendons. PHOTOS: KLAUS POLKOWSKI

the muscles from the elbow to the wrist. Hold the position for twenty to thirty seconds, and make sure you are breathing regularly as you do it. Then change arms. Doing each forearm one or two times is plenty. It's important to make sure that the arm stays completely straight throughout the entire exercise in order to stretch all the muscles as effectively as possible. A variation on this is to point the fingers of the outstretched arm towards the ceiling. Use your other hand to gently pull your fingers in the direction of your body.

Move it!

Anyone who wants to get moving is welcome to come and explore the range of activities and advice the FGZ offers, or you can book an office visit from Pausen-Express to be put through your paces on the spot.

www.fgz.uni-freiburg.de
www.gesunde.uni-freiburg.de/angebote/projekte/pausenexpress

Fragments from the black box

Annette Pehnt followed neuroscientists as they worked and poured her experience into literary texts

by Stephanie Streif

When Freiburg author Annette Pehnt sits at home in front of her laptop, she opens a window on another world. Her career is writing fiction. She invents people, characters who accompany her through her stories. They present to the readers how the characters feel and think, and who they are. This past winter semester, Pehnt was the "Artist in Residence" at the university's Brain-Links-BrainTools cluster of excellence. There, scientists are researching the workings of the human brain. She spent six months moving around the campus of the Faculty of Engineering, which is located near the airfield. Pehnt sat in labs and interviewed researchers. She watched robots carry out the orders they were given, or not, and was commissioned to produce art based on what she witnessed.

It was an exciting time for Pehnt. Everything around her was strange, including the content. "When I started the project, I was coming from nowhere," she explains and confesses to never having been someone who was interested in natural sciences. It didn't matter. In addition to being an author, Pehnt also teaches at the Freiburg University of Education. She didn't hesitate in accepting the artist in residence post. Instead, she got on with it and became acquainted with a whole, new, academic culture that she hadn't known existed. She says her encounters with neuro-



Creativity comes from the head, after all. And the brain is the best storyteller, says Pehnt. PHOTO: JÜRGEN GOCKE

scientists were relaxed and dominated by mutual curiosity. She asked lots of questions, but also faced many queries about her work.

Did she always understand the answers? No, Pehnt admits openly. She says the researchers were very eloquent and practiced in making their work accessible to the general public. Yet when she looked over their shoulders as they worked and saw the scores of data sets flickering on the screens, she was rarely able to follow what was going on.

"There's an undercurrent of hard core science that can't be explained with a simple conversation," she explains.

From the commonplace into the depths

What surprised Pehnt was how much the neuroscientists perceive themselves as pioneers. But she says that on the campus she did not experience an excess of self-certainty that one might expect from premier researchers. Pehnt says the scientists

worked in a team-oriented way and were aware of their own limits. The human brain is still like a black box from which the scientists are only able to dig out fragments. The neural fireworks of consciousness taking place in there are too complex. Working to get them out into the open however, was familiar to the Freiburg author. She says that when she starts writing, she starts with the commonplace, and then begins to dig deeper and deeper in order to get closer to the personality of her characters.

Like the brain researchers, when she writes, she is questioning human identity. What makes a person into what they are? Science calls this neural "I-experience" a "sense of agency." "And that unfolds in a much more uncoordinated way than I had assumed previously," says the author. Seen from that standpoint, an "I" constituted from biochemical processes and electrical impulses seems quite unstable. Pehnt points out, "But on the other hand, that coincides with the unstable human image of post modernism."

Since Pehnt spent time watching the cluster work, the human brain has become a world champion storyteller for her. "It permanently produces the fiction of a coherent reality," she says, "and a person is part of it, captured in a 'closed loop,' the closed system of their own perception." Pehnt finds this fascinating and becomes a bit gushy.

In love with the brain

"I've fallen in love with my brain," she determines. That's also the title of her still unpublished work that she has written based on her experiences in the excellence cluster. She presented some of these in February 2017 at the Freiburger Literaturbüro. At a further event in March, Pehnt took part in a cooperative performance with the experimental violinist and media artist Ephraim Wegener. They were accompanied by the signals of an EEG. Pehnt says that if all the crossfiring that goes on in the human brain can be presented at all, then in an artistic way. And what's more, since her experience, the author has started to wear a helmet when she cycles.



The Treasure Hunter

Angela Witt-Meral redesigns the permanent exhibition at the Uniseum and gives courses for students

by Mariella Hutt

"My grandfather always told me stories from his childhood and youth. During the Second World War he was a soldier in France, then he was sent to the Crimea in Russia and ended up in Soviet captivity, which he later escaped," recounts Angela Witt-Meral. History has always played a

large part in her life. Her parents and she too were born in the former East Germany. Witt-Meral likes to ask them questions about their time there. Her grandfather's stories and her own family history were just one reason why she decided to study History at the University of Freiburg after finishing her secondary education with an Abitur.

For two years the historian worked as an exhibition assistant at the Haus der Geschichte in Bonn, then she returned to the city of her alma mater.

Since April 2016 she has been the curator responsible for redesigning the permanent exhibition at the Uniseum of the university. She likens her work to a treasure hunt – she researches in archives and libraries, investigates clues and contacts private individuals. "I have to take many different paths until in the end I find the right item." It has to be three-dimensional, capture visitors' interest and stay in their memory – and it must be arranged to make it inevitable that they become immersed in the exhibition.

Previously Angela Witt-Meral studied history at the University of Freiburg – today she curates the past of her alma mater for the public. PHOTO: KLAUS POLKOWSKI

There are 30 thousand objects available in the museum from various university institutions, as well as from private individuals: fabrics, paintings, scientific equipment, furniture and everyday items used by students – everything that bears a relation to the history of the University of Freiburg. Witt-Meral finds one box in which denazification files were stored after 1945 especially interesting. "The box looks very nondescript. But this object tells us about one of the most important periods of the 20th Century." Personally, she is not a collector, but she is all the more energetic in the museum of her alma mater as a result: "I enjoy the constant process of finding out new things about the history of my former university."

Students also play an important part in her work. Last winter semester, for instance, Witt-Meral joined Prof. Dr. Sylvia Paletschek from the Department of History in giving a course on the history of Freiburg's students. With the participants she developed an exhibition area on the experiences and political actions of Freiburg students in the 1950s and 1960s. In the coming months the curator wants to reshape this new part of the exhibition, so she went back on the hunt for treasures, hoping to find the people who ran the public houses who helped with the Student aufs Land program in 1965. Back then, students from Freiburg visited the nearby villages to promote the idea of secondary education.

Unfortunately, Witt-Meral came up empty handed: over the years the landlords have changed. "I'm not always successful with my searches, but that's just what you have to go through to find good exhibits."

In future, Witt-Meral would love to have a "small team" in order to discuss the various exhibition areas with other experts and provide support for one another when hunting for good exhibits, as well as to improve daily working life. She also hopes to be successful in raising the profile of the Uniseum. That's why the museum also opens its doors on some evenings. In July 2017 it will take part in the Freiburg Museums' Night.

Uniseum opening hours

The Uniseum is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Public guided tours are held at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. every day, and also at 6 p.m. on Fridays.

Group tours are possible at other times by appointment.

Admission is free.

> www.uniseum.uni-freiburg.de

Achievements

Dr. **Rupinder Kaur** of the Department of Microsystems Engineering (MST), **Mirjam Lücking** of the Department of Ethnology, and **Christina Pfeuffer** of the Institute of Psychology are receiving the STAY! bridging scholarship from the University of Freiburg and the New University Endowment Freiburg. This is designed to attract female post-docs who want to continue their academic career but have not yet secured follow-up financing. Funding of 1,800 euros per month is granted initially for six months, and this may be extended to one year. Dr. Kaur is researching affordable and durable composites from semiconductors and nanostructured materials. Her goal is to define and improve the features of these composites so that they can contribute to the production of energy through water splitting. Lücking is studying the reciprocal relationship between anti-Islamic and Islamic populism. She is carrying out an international comparative case study to investigate the attraction of various forms of xenophobic populism. Pfeuffer's research project examines the processes of human action control with the aid of eye movements.

The Freiburg microsystems engineer Dr. **Can Dincer** took second place in the Gips-Schüle-Nachwuchspreis for his dissertation, which looks at the optimization of biosensor systems for the diagnosis of diseases. The Gips Schüle Foundation presents the award in recognition of outstanding doctoral work in the "MINT" subjects, Mathematics, Informatics, Science and Technology. The prize is endowed with 5,000 euros.

Friedericke Fischer has received an award for best poster presentation at the annual conference of the Gesellschaft für Pädiatrische Nephrologie, along with an award of 1,000 euros. The honor was given in recognition of the results of her Master thesis, which she wrote at the Center for Pediatrics at Freiburg University Medical Center. In this, she describes an innovative protein that could be used therapeutically against diseases of the complement system.

Dr. **Lena Krämer** from the Institute of Psychology has received the 5,000 euro e-Learning Incentive Award from the University of Freiburg. This was conferred on her for an e-Portfolio that she developed as a form of examination that accompanies the "clinical psychological intervention" course throughout the semester. Its aim is to help students take a critical stance towards issues and reflect on their own actions by collecting documents in which they record and evaluate their learning process over the course of the semester into a kind of virtual folder on the online learning platform ILIAS.

The Freiburg forestry scientist Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. **Heinrich Spiecker** has been awarded the international cooperation prize by the Chinese province of Hebei. Spiecker received the prize for his contribution to seminatural forestry there. Since December 2012, he has been advising the state forestry enterprise Mulan, which manages an area of forest land of 90,000 hectares around Beijing. The region is demonstrating best forestry practice as part of a nationwide development program. Amongst other things, Spiecker developed growth models that were adapted to the location to help with this project. These growth models allow a forest's productivity to be estimated, enabling sustainable use of the tree stock.

The Verein Rheinisch-Westfälischer Augenärzte has awarded its science prize to Dr. **Thomas Wecker**, specialist at the Freiburg University Medical Center's Eye Center. The prize, which brings with it a grant of 15,000 euros, funds projects by junior researchers who have made a significant contribution to ophthalmology. The prize-winning project was designed to characterize genetic information in intraocular fluid samples from the anterior and posterior chamber, and so contributes to better understanding of various eye diseases.

The biologist Dr. **Kosuke Yamahara** of the Shiga University of Medical Science in Otsu, Japan, is receiving a Humboldt research scholarship for post-docs. With its scholarship, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports highly qualified scientists from

abroad at the start of their career. Yamahara will be researching at the University of Freiburg into how altered metabolic processes in specialized kidney cells contribute to the progression of diabetic nephropathy. The disease can be a consequence of diabetes and is the commonest cause of dialysis dependency. The hosts are Prof. Dr. Tobias B. Huber and Prof. Dr. Gerd Walz from the Department of Medicine IV at the Freiburg University Medical Center.

Prof. Dr. **Almut Zeeck**, senior physician at the Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy of the Freiburg University Medical Center, has together with the chief psychologist Dr. Armin Hartmann received the Heigl prize for their scientific work on psychotherapy research. The prize is endowed with 10,000 euros and will be presented at the annual conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychosomatische Medizin und Ärztliche Psychotherapie in Berlin. The work of Zeeck and Hartmann looks at the question of how patients internalize experiences in therapy sessions and process them in daily life.

The chemist Dr. **Jun Zheng** from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, China, is receiving a Humboldt research scholarship for post-docs from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. With its scholarship, the foundation supports highly qualified scientists from abroad at the start of their career. At the University of Freiburg Dr. Zheng will be looking at new methods of chemical synthesis that are preferably atom-efficient and therefore free of potential waste products. The substances hereby created will, for example, be used as a basis for medicines or dyes. The host is Prof. Dr. Bernhard Breit from the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The Ministry of Science, Research and Art (MWK) of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the University of Freiburg are supporting five outstanding women scholars who have one child or more. The Brigitte-Schlieben-Lange Program provides aid for mothers working towards professorships. Through one to two years of employment, the program promotes academic qualification initiatives during the postdoctoral phase. During this time, the researchers can obtain the qualifications they still need for full professorships and raise follow-up research funding. The award-winning researchers and their projects are as follows:

- Dr. **Maria Asplund**, Biomedical Microtechnology; "Functional electronic materials for enhancing neural microelectrodes"
- Dr. **Cornelia Klose**, Biology; "How intracellular protein dynamics regulate the activity of the plant photoreceptors phytochrome A and B"
- Dr. **Sandra Straßburg**, Experimental Surgery; "Regenerative approaches in plastic surgery"
- Associate Professor Dr. **Sarah Teige-Mocigemba**, Psychology; "Is negative stronger than positive? Process components of valence asymmetry effects: A diffusion model analysis"
- Dr. **Elisabeth Zima**, German Linguistics; "Pilot study on multimodal coordination in joint recounting during face-to-face interaction"

Appointments

Faculty of Theology

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Prof. Dr. **Karl-Heinz Ruhstorfer**, Technische Universität Dresden, professor of Dogmatics with Source Studies of Medieval Theology.

Faculty of Economics and Behavioral Sciences

Prof. Dr. **Ulrike Halsband**, Institute of Psychology, retired at the end of March 2017.

Faculty of Philology

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed **Axel Bohmann** from the Department of English to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Prof. Dr. **Eva Tichy**, Indo-European linguistics, retired at the end of March 2017.

Faculty of Humanities

Effective 30 March 2017, the rector has appointed junior professor Dr. **Anna Lipphardt**, Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, professor of Cultural Studies, with a concentration on mobility and culture in Europe.

The rector has appointed Prof. Dr. **Gordon Crawford**, Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations of Coventry University, GB, an adjunct professor.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rebstock, Oriental Seminar, retired at the end of March 2017.

Effective 1 May 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. Laury Sarti from the Department of History to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Prof. Dr. **Victor Bangert**, Institute of Mathematics, retired at the end of March 2017.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Anja Kuhnhold** from the Institute of Physics to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Amador Martin Pizarro**, University of Lyon, France, professor of Mathematical Logic and Principles of Mathematics.

Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy

Effective 1 April 2017, the vice president has appointed Dr. **Markus Heiny** from the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Faculty of Biology

Prof. Dr. **Peter Beyer**, Institute of Biology II, retired at the end of March 2017.

Effective 27 March 2017, the rector has appointed junior professor Dr. **Winfried Römer**, BIOS Centre for Biological Signalling Studies/Institute of Biology II, professor of Synthetic Biology of Signalling Processes.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Sebastian Timo Schenk** from the Institute of Biology II to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Sina Leipold**, Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography, junior professor of Social Transformation and Closed-Loop Economy for the period of four years.

Faculty of Engineering

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. **Günter Müller**, Institute of Computer Science and Social Studies, retired at the end of March 2017. He will be a Senior Advisor at the Centre for Security and Society of the University of Freiburg until 31 December 2017.

Effective 10 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Lars Pastewka**, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and the Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials – IWM in Freiburg, professor of Simulation.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Alexander Reiterer**, Fraunhofer Institute for Physical Measurement Techniques – IPM in Freiburg, professor of Inspection of Major Structures.

Prof. Dr. **Alexander Rohrbach** from the Institute of Microsystems Engineering has declined the appointment offered to him by the University of Osnabrück.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Simon Thiele** from the Institute of Microsystems Engineering to be an administrative officer for the period of three years.

Effective 1 April 2017, the rector has appointed Dr. **Anelis Kaiser Trujillo**, University of Bern, Switzerland, professor of Gender Studies in MINT.

Anniversaries

25th ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. **Jens-Arne Dickmann**, Institute of Archeological Sciences
Marion Leinfelder, Institute of Sports Science and Physical Education
 Prof. Dr. **Ursula Nothelle-Wildfeuer**, Institute of Practical Theology
 Prof. Dr. **Alexander Renkl**, Institute of Psychology
 Prof. Dr. **Annette Huber-Klawitter**, Institute of Mathematics

40th ANNIVERSARIES

Prof. Dr. Dr. **Jürgen Bengel**, Institute of Psychology
Rita Matysiak, University Library
Harald Noeske, Institute of Biology I
Anja Semmler, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy Dean's Office

VENIA LEGENDI FOR

Dr. **Heiko Becker**, Experimental Medicine
 Dr. **Dr. Franck Billmann**, Surgery
 Dr. **Frederike Hasepaß**, Oto-Rhino-Laryngology
 Dr. **Ulrich Hubbe**, Neurosurgery
 Dr. **David Christopher Kubosch**, Orthopedics and Trauma Surgery
 Dr. **Karen Lienkamp**, Microsystems Engineering
 Dr. **Ulrich Maurer**, Experimental Medicine
 Dr. **Jochen Oliver Reinöhl**, Medicine



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Wenn's um Geld geht 

Pictured

PHOTO: THOMAS KUNZ



Against alternative facts: Around 2,500 people attended the "March for Science" rally on Freiburg's Augustinerplatz. Freiburg residents, students, researchers and teachers all took to the streets as part of a global day of protest at the end of April 2017. They were there to support scientifically confirmed facts.

Pronounced

Stars and stipends

Singer Beyoncé Knowles is humming a new tune. She's started her own scholarship program. Eligible for the stipends are students of the arts, music, literature and African-American studies. Four universities in the United States are taking part in the program. Will it be a hit or is there a sour note in there somewhere? Nicolas Scherger (pro) and Rimma Gerenstein (con) debate the merits of a scholarship from a star.

Pro: A trendsetting promoter of talent

You simply have to say it, she's great. She's a great singer, at the forefront of the fight for equality for women and now, she's an altruistic promoter of talent as well in art, music, literature and African-American studies. She's an outstanding exception to the otherwise flat world of stars and starlets. There's no other celebrity like her. Who else makes such aesthetic music videos, writes such clever melodies with deep lyrics, and is dominated by a crystal clear, considered position regarding her own socio-cultural identity and position? Right. If women students opt for an academic path in order to follow this shining example, that's wonderful news.

And better still, Beyoncé's blazing a trail again, and other celebrities will follow suit. After all, there are many more wealthy and credible patrons. Medical students for example, could profit from stars who follow Beyoncé's lead. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian could provide scholarships for students of plastic surgery, actor Kevin James

for nutritional medicine and Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards for innovations in dialysis. Language and linguistics could receive support from politicians, especially from EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger for English, and the former Bavarian state premier Edmund Stoiber could provide one for German. The possibilities are limitless: Soccer world champion Lukas Podolski could patronize philosophy, comedian Mario Barth would sponsor neuroscience and the president of the soccer team Bayern Munich, Uli Hoeneß, law.

The University of Freiburg will certainly also receive the patronage of these heroes and heroines someday. It's only a matter of time because the fitting special research area that everyone needs already exists.



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Of course, beggars can't be choosers. On the one hand, you have chronically underfinanced, unassuming universities. On the other, a superstar with just a bit of dosh and almost 15 million followers on twitter. The temptation's enormous.

To be fair, on the international stage there aren't many who can hold a candle to Beyoncé. But how reliable can her ability be when it comes to spotting academic talent – a woman who announces her pregnancy from lips that appear as if inflated with botox; who wants to record her own brilliance in a self-produced documentary; and who's given her daughter a name that at best sounds like a shade of Mediterranean wall paint and, in terms even more unkind, like a line of perfumes promoted by a sidelined soap opera star?

There's something rotten in the land of Queen Beys. Donors are more than noble, their money buys influence, too. Clever

Con: Dangerous donor

woman that she is, Ms. Knowles aims to cozy up to research in order to maintain permanent dominance in show business – based on empirical facts if you please. It won't be long before the Institute for Advanced Bootylicious Studies is holding international conferences. Of course the only drinks served with be "lemonade."

Riskier still is if an institute of higher learning accepts the sponsorship of a star, then the door will be open for a whole army of cranks. Björn Höcke can fund a scholarship for the reinterpretation of "The History of the German People in the 20th century" Mel Gibson will launch a stipend for "Anti-Jewish Studies" based on new findings about the crucifixion of Christ, and Martin Winterkorn will sponsor a fellowship for "Alternative Measurement Technologies" in profit maximization.

There'll be no question of saying "no" to the wild hordes of donors then – or as Beyoncé puts it so well, "When people say, 'No, no no,' I really want to say, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah.'"

Picked-up

European leg

The Eucor Tour took place from 5 June to 10 June. Members of the five Eucor Universities cycled distances ranging from 600 to 900 kilometers through Freiburg, Basel, Mulhouse, Karlsruhe and Strasbourg, and the bicycles were the stars of the show. Nathalie Schnabel interviewed one. Ahead of the tour, she wanted to know if it was fit to go the distance.

uni^{life}: Hallo, Eucor bicycle. Are you fit enough for the big race?

Eucor bicycle: My chain's oiled, the tires are pumped up and I've got a German-French dictionary in my



PHOTO: SANDRA MEYNDT

by Nathalie Schnabel

panniers. And soon we'll be given the order en marche!

Is that an allusion to your political position?

Well, I'm European in any case. When it comes to elections, I always support the party that makes it possible to continue crossing borders. That makes it possible for me to remain a freewheeling bicycle that can cross borders without it being illegal. And of course, who wants to be getting their documents out all the time? And let's not forget – we need freedom of

movement for everyone! Even bicycles that looks a little bit different. That's the only way to achieve free and borderless bicycle use in Europe.

That sounds as if the bicycle is going to become the means of transportation of the future.

Why not? All those burnouts, the environmental pollution ... it can't go on like this. I'm telling you, we need to slow down.

Don't you think that's a bit too optimistic, or even extreme?

Extreme is a trend right now. You need

to exploit the zeitgeist when you can. We don't produce carbon dioxide and we favor equal treatment for everyone. Everyone can cycle: women, children, men, and the young and old. Besides, it's a known fact that the best ideas come when you're in the saddle, just like showering. What more do you want from a means of transportation?

You mean European cycling is a universal solution?

I predict a shining future for the European bicycle – at least in the next election. As long as we pedal as hard as we can.

Masthead

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