

SUPPLEMENT: CAMPUS WITHOUT BORDERS



Photo: Jan Pollmann

TEA CEREMONY

A Japanese tea ceremony normally takes place in a very simply decorated tea house. But inner peace and space for contemplation can also be found in front of the Tutoring Center. Psychology student Anika Eberz, of German-Japanese heritage, is dressed traditionally in a kimono. She prepares tea for herself and Romina Malandrino, a student of East Asian Studies who spent a year in Tokyo, where she learned how people in Japan dress today. The two students not only symbolize traditional and contemporary Japan – they are also drawing attention to the Japan Week, which will take place at RUB at the end of November (see page 3). *ad*

INTERNATIONAL PILOTS

Staff members assist international visitors

The administration is a section of the university whose relevance, unlike that of research and teaching, only becomes apparent at second glance. In the ongoing pursuit towards more internationality across all RUB departments, the administration fulfills a vital part: it is here that cross-sectional tasks are performed and parameters for international activities are drawn up. The internationalization strategy paper, issued by the Rector's Office in August 2010, dedicates an entire chapter to the administration.

The university's administration is an important and, more often than not, first port of call for international RUB members. The administration's bodies – first and foremost the International Office – offer assistance and support to international students and scholars, and they promote the RUB members' mobility. Cross-cultural openness and competence are vital qualities for the administration if the aim is to promote the RUB's internationalization process: the responsibility for this process lies not only with the International Office, but rather with each and every body within the administration.

A first step towards this goal has now been taken: the administrative departments and offices have appointed "international pilots" who are going to be the first points-of-contact for international university members and visitors. These pilots are members of staff with an interest in international issues who display outstanding administrative capabilities as well as intercultural competencies and have a good grasp of English. In future, they are going to help international visi-



Photo: Nette

Friederike Bergstedt helps US-student Terrence Jimerson navigate the website of the German philology

tors navigate through their areas of competence, assisting them in finding the right point-of-contact, and, if necessary, offer advice, answer questions and, should the occasion arise, translate for them, until the matter at hand is resolved. They fulfill the role of first points-of-contact within their department or function, both for the departmental staff as well as for international visitors. By infusing troubleshooting ideas, the pilots facilitate knowledge gain of their administrative department or office and, ultimately, help to improve overall service. As a result, business processes can be optimized and workflows overhauled.

Pilot Workshop

This entire concept is founded upon the crucial element of networking, both among the pilots themselves and between the pilots and the International Office.

To this end, the first Pilot Workshop took place at the end of September. By way of example, four fictitious cases were presented, all of which posed complex international challenges that had to be resolved. Working as a team, the pilots tried to find answers and solutions. The examples included the case of Chinese engineer Xuxing Wu who, in addition to his duties as research assistant, wishes to provide Tai Chi classes as part of the university's extracurricular sport activities. Another case has medical student Marina Reimann struggle with the question of how to represent the RUB at an international trade fair during her one-year internship abroad. All fictitious clients were presented with the answers they needed – after all, the contacts from all administrative bodies were gathered around the same table. "This is what cooperation should always look like" – such was everyone's conclusion after the first meeting. *Ulrike Herrlich*

ANNUAL ACADEMIC CELEBRATION

RUB WAS NUMBER 1

Once a year, Ruhr University Bochum throws itself a party. The Annual Academic Celebration revisits the past year in words and pictures, and acknowledges great accomplishments among members of the RUB community. This year's festivities will take place in the Audimax on November 18th, starting at 11:00 a.m., during which Tongji University will receive a very special honor.

Over 30 years ago, RUB had the great honor of becoming Tongji University's first foreign partner university. In 1990, to celebrate RUB's 25th anniversary and the 10th year of its partnership with the Shanghai university, Tongji University presented the RUB with the campus's Chinese Gardens – the only southern Chinese-style garden in Germany. Now it is time for RUB to duly recognize its important Chinese partner. To underscore the formality of the occasion, a special session of the RUB Senate will be called during the celebration, during which RUB's Rector, Professor Elmar Weiler, will present his Chinese counterpart, Professor Gang Pei, with the award "Pro Societate multorum annorum" (for long-standing partnership).

The entire Annual Academic Celebration will have a strong International flavor this year. "People from over 120 different countries come together at the Ruhr University Bochum. We want our guests to be immersed in this very special atmosphere," Rector Weiler promises. As a complementary addition to the program, the cultural office of the Akademische Förderungswerk (Academic Support Group which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year) will have performances and demonstrations celebrating cultures from all over the world.

A number of other awards will be given out during the celebration, such as the Ruhr University Bochum badge of honor, as well as the Lore Agnes Prize recognizing special projects to advance gender equality; the recipients of both will remain undisclosed until the celebration. As is customary, the RUB Rectorate will also announce



Marble pillar (Huabiao) at Tongji University

special awards given to outstanding graduates from all disciplines of the university.

All students and members of the RUB community, including family members, friends, and supporters of RUB, are invited to attend this year's 12th Annual Academic Celebration. International members of the university are especially encouraged to join in the festivities. *ad*

Information: www.rub.de/jahresfeier

Photo: Nette/Net/ikipedia.org

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL PILOTS

Claudia Haun, Dezernat 1 | Dr. Heike Hunneshagen, Dezernat 2 | Ute Gode, Dezernat 3 | Amanda Wartenweiler, Dezernat 4 | Ina Schwarz, Dezernat 5 | Mihran Müller-Bickert, Dezernat 5 | Dr. Christiane Lohaus, Dezernat 6 | Carsten Sander, Dezernat 6 | Wibke Krahl, Dezernat 7 | Christoph Jochindke, Justitiariat | Beate Schiller, Stabsstelle Strategische PR und Markenbildung | Uwe Koßmann, Stabsstelle Organisation – Entwicklung – Beratung | Ralf Otto, Stabsstelle eLearning | Friederike Bergstedt, Stabsstelle Interne Fortbildung und Beratung (Dezernat = administrative department; Stabsstelle = office)



The 16 students from Philadelphia at the Kokerei Hansa in Dortmund

"SO MANY TINY CARS!"

First Summer School with Drexel University

From July to mid-September, the first "Bochum Engineering Summer" took place at RUB. Sixteen engineering students from Philadelphia's Drexel University took part, bringing along their professor, Dr. Steve Wrenn, and graduate student Steven Dicker. The academic instruction and support for the program came from Dr. Stefan Pollak from the Chair for Solid Matter Process Technology (held by Professor Marcus Petermann) and Professor Georg Schmitz, who holds the Chair for Medical Engineering. In addition to German language lessons, participants took courses in statistics, fluid dynamics, and unit operations. The students were also responsible for completing a small independent research paper.

The International Office organized a cultural program and arranged accommodation in RUB dormitories. As part of a "Welcome Day" program, students received practical orientation materials and took a tour of the campus. During the tour, it quickly became clear that in the USA everything is a little bit bigger. At the I-Süd street parking lot there were a lot of surprised and confused looks, as the American exchange students exclaimed, "So many tiny cars!" At least some 20-year-olds in the USA drive big Jeeps that get only 12 miles per gallon!

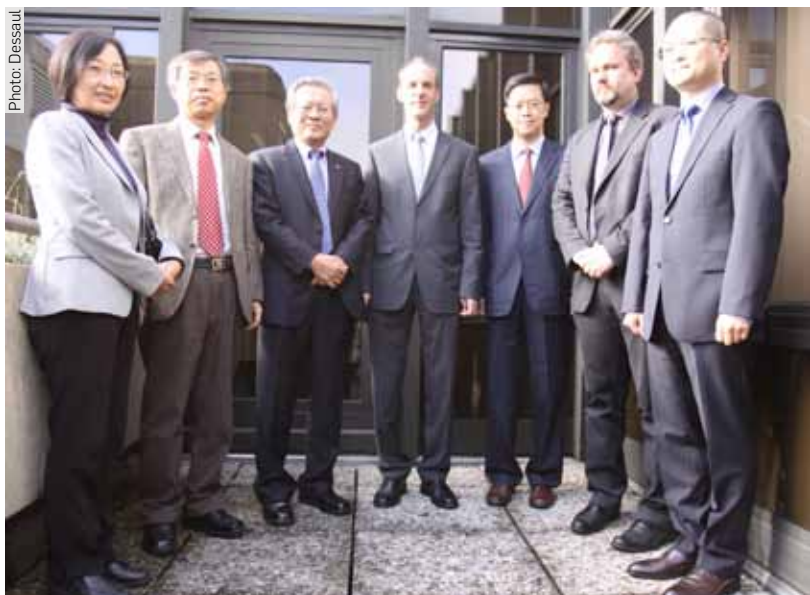
One of the highlights of the cultural program was attending the "Extraschicht" event on July 9th. American students were exposed to the cultural diversity and industrial heritage of the Ruhr area, and they were duly impressed by the industrial memorial Kokerei Hansa (an historic coking plant) in Dortmund, the Dortmund "U" (a re-purposed brewery, now an arts center), and Bochum's own Westpark (a completely transformed industrial area, now home to a park and opera house).

Throughout the summer, program participants took part in a number of other excursions and visits to local sites such as a trip to the Zeche Zollverein (a re-purposed coal mine which is now a center for creative businesses and the arts), the Fiege Brewery, Bonn, the Opel auto factory, the WDR radio station, and TV studios in Essen. In addition, students planned their own weekend trips across Europe.

Eight students from RUB will attend Drexel next year. They already got to know several of their future Drexel classmates in Bochum and have connected on Facebook. This will help them prepare for their trip and get quick answers to their practical questions. The first Bochum Summer School with Drexel University was an overwhelming success for both sides, and is scheduled to run again next year. *Magdalena Bichmann*

NEW PARTNER IN EAST ASIA

RUB has found a new East Asian partner in Seoul's Sogang University. A high-ranking delegation from Seoul visited Bochum on October 13th, during which time the four Korean visitors along with Professor Jong Wook Lee (President of Sogang University, third from left) met with Professor Nils Metzler-Nolte (Vice Rector for Young Scientists and International Matters, fourth from the left) and representatives from the Faculty for East Asian Studies. Many international cooperation agreements have already been established by RUB's Fakultät of East Asian Studies, especially within the literature and language sections. After discussing the many opportunities for university-wide cooperation, both parties signed the partnership agreement. *ad*



ABOUT US

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Before interning or studying abroad, you should consult the International Office or other experts, like these students at the "Without Borders" ("Grenzenlos") international opportunities fair in the Audimax.

COMBINING WORK AND FUN

That is what an Internship Abroad Stands For

Many employers prefer to hire university graduates who have lived abroad for a certain time. Therefore, many students decide to spend a semester or year in a foreign country. Combined study and internship trips have become more and more popular over the past years. An internship abroad is a great way to gain valuable work experience while getting to know a new country and language. In addition, you can become familiar with the work life and organizational structures in other cultures and learn how to work in an international team. The International Office of Ruhr-Universität Bochum provides useful information concerning the search and placement of internships and concerning scholarships.

If you are lucky, you might end up with a paid internship. If this does not work out, there are other ways to finance your stay abroad. For example, as of 2007 on, you can receive up to € 300 per month from the EU's ERASMUS Student Mobility Program for an independently organized internship in an EU member state and in Iceland, Croatia, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. If you intern overseas in a field relevant to your area of studies, you can apply for financial support via the DAAD's PROMOS program. You will then receive a monthly scholarship of € 300 – plus travel expenses. Yet, what is it really like to intern abroad? RUBENS interviewed two RUB students who recently returned from England and the USA.

TEACHING IN SHEFFIELD

Muriel August (23) attended the University of Sheffield from January to June 2011 on an ERASMUS Mobility Grant. The Master's of Education student (studying German and English) interned as an assistant teacher in the Modern Languages Teaching Centre (MLTC), where she helped with German language instruction.

RUBENS: How did you discover the University of Sheffield?

M. A.: By coincidence. A friend of mine told me that a lecturer in our English Department, John Poziemski, had posted some information about an internship on his homepage. I'd always wanted to go to England – and because I was in between my B.A. and M.A. studies, the timing was perfect.

How did you find the information you needed?

Through John Poziemski and the internet. Deciding to go was easy – it sounded so interesting. Since Bochum and Sheffield are sister cities, the University of Sheffield gives preference to internship

applicants from Bochum. Just one day after I applied, I received word from Sheffield that I was accepted.

Was it just as easy to get a scholarship?

Yes, although it took longer. I had about nine months between submitting my application and starting the internship, which gave me ample time to apply for an ERASMUS scholarship. I also received a special financial aid package for studying abroad from Bafög, the German federal government's student-aid program. That was easy, too, as I was already getting financial aid from them.

How was the internship?

Overall it was great, though I would have loved to have taught lessons myself – but that wasn't possible because with just a bachelor's degree, I wasn't yet qualified. However, I took care of preparation and follow-up for the courses, conducted re-



search, and corrected tests. During the lessons, I was asked to correct students' pronunciation. The MLTC is a cross between a university and a continuing education facility, which means that course participants come from all walks of life, including university students as well as non-students, young and old. That was exciting. And I really enjoyed the city of Sheffield.

What advice would you give to your fellow RUB students who would like to get practical experience abroad?

Just do it!

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IN LONG BEACH

Ronja Laarmann-Quante (20) is studying Linguistics and English at RUB. With the support of a PROMOS scholarship, she completed an internship at the newspaper The Beachcomber in Long Beach, California (USA), in August and September of this year.

RUBENS: How did you end up at The Beachcomber?

R. L-Q.: I already had friends in Long Beach, so deciding where to go was easy. I really wanted to intern for a newspaper. For one thing, I'd already gotten a taste of working at a paper during a short internship in France, which was a lot of fun. Moreover, I wanted to learn more about the people and culture in California. I figured that a newspaper was the perfect place to do both. So, I just looked in the Yellow Pages and found The Beachcomber's website.

Is that how you learned more about The Beachcomber?

Yes, that's right. You could read entire issues online, and the overall style of the paper appealed to me. I noticed that they regularly published articles written by interns. In other words, I was certain

I would be allowed to do much more than just make coffee.

How hard was it to get a scholarship?

I could tell from the description of the PROMOS scholarship that it was a perfect fit for what I wanted to do. Getting the paperwork together was a bit of a hassle, but that made getting the award letter all the sweeter. It helped enormously that I could turn to the International Office for assistance at any time during the process.

Did everything go smoothly after you arrived?

Absolutely. Before I went there, I was assured that I would be exposed to all aspects of the newspaper business, and that I'd be writing my own articles. All of that actually happened.

What advice do you have for your fellow RUB students?

In my experience, you should seek a challenge in your internship. You should not hesitate to write to a company asking for information about internships, even if they haven't specifically advertised anything. I also discovered that if you don't get an answer at first, it's well worth fol-



lowing up after a little while. My original e-mail to The Beachcomber either never made it there or was simply lost in the piles of e-mails they receive every day. It also helps if you mention right away that your (health) insurance is taken care of, as a lot of companies in other countries assume that taking on an intern from abroad is too much extra work.

For an overview of information relating to internships abroad:

<http://www.international.rub.de/ausland/praktikum/index.html.de>



In her free time, student Anika Eberz volunteers at the Japanese-German Culture Workshop (www.tenri-kw.de/uber). Here, she is sitting in the cafeteria enjoying onigiri, a flavorful Japanese rice ball. The cafeteria will be serving Japanese delicacies during Japan Week.

EXPERIENCE JAPAN

"Japan Week": Culture, Cuisine, Conferences

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese-German treaty on friendship, cooperation, and trade, and the official commencement of German and Japanese relations. Since then, there has been active exchange and close cooperation in the areas of culture, business, and science. Highlighting the spirit of the German-Japanese friendship, this special anniversary will be celebrated in both countries, including at RUB. Japan Week, which receives funding and support from the German Rectors' Conference, will be celebrated here November 21st-25th. RUB will show off its Japanese side through academic events and a "Japan Info Day", and campus life will revolve around all things Japanese. The International Office and the Dermatology Clinic at RUB are coordinating the week's activities.

Have you ever wondered what Ikebana is? What a Haijin does, or how people greet each other in Japan? To find out, you can join one of the many workshops taking place during Japan Week. The German Haiku Society, Origami Deutschland e.V., and the Ikebana teacher Florian Patzke invite you learn a traditional Japanese art form. The RUB's Language Institute will put on a two-day workshop to prepare you for a research stay in Japan and an evening of karaoke will give you a taste of modern Japanese culture. The student film club will show a Japanese film, and the cafeteria will serve sushi prepared by the Bochum Academic Support Group, as well as other Japanese specialties.

Partners for over 40 years

RUB has been working closely with numerous Japanese universities for more than four decades. The first cooperation agreement was signed with the University of Tokyo in 1969; the most recent cooperation agreement was formalized in 2010 with Osaka University. RUB is the only university in Germany to have a Fakultät (i.e., academic department or faculty) of East Asian Studies. Scholars from its four sections ("Japanese History", "Japanese Language and Literature", "Economics of East Asia", and "Politics of East Asia") undertake research on a variety of different topics relating to Japan. Japan Week's main focus is to publicly highlight the impressive breadth of scholarly work conducted by RUB and its Japanese partner universities.

There will also be two symposia showcasing German-Japanese research projects. At the 6th annual German-Japanese HIV Symposium on November 21st and 22nd, 14 Japanese and German researchers will present their latest results. This international collaboration in AIDS research, spearheaded by Prof. Norbert Brockmeyer (RUB) and Prof. Takashi Oka-

moto (Nagoya City University), has become firmly established over the past six years. Early career researchers, in particular, will have an excellent opportunity to network with leading German and Japanese HIV researchers at the symposium. Admission is free for everyone.

Researchers from all Fakultäten who cooperate with Japanese partners or are interested in cooperating with them are invited to the "Interdisciplinary Symposium" on November 22nd. Many members of the RUB community maintain close partnerships with Japanese colleagues and some will report on their experiences at the event: presenters will include Dr. Erik Bründermann (nanotechnology), Prof. Regine Mathias (East Asian studies), Dr. Marc Nowaczyk (biochemistry), Prof. Karl Riesenhuber (law), and Prof. Uwe Czarnetzki (experimental physics), who will appear along with Prof. Toshiaki Makabe (Vice President of Keio University).

Japan Info Day

At the "Japan Info Day", which will take place in the foyer of the Audimax on November 23rd, interested students and researchers can learn more about exchange opportunities in Japan. In addition to the International Office, which will provide information about the partnerships that exist between RUB and Japanese universities, various other external institutions – for example, the GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), the Japan Foundation, the DAAD, and the Robert Bosch Foundation will also introduce their Japan-related programs. This will be a great chance to network and learn about scholarships and stipends, internship opportunities, and exchange programs.

Japan Week will further strengthen academic exchange between RUB and its Japanese partners and will also emphasize the mutual support they provide to each other. Months later, the consequences of the earthquake that occurred on March 11th, 2011, continue to place a huge burden on Japan. The East Asian Studies student organization will hold a bake sale on the "Japan Info Day" with the proceeds going to the Japanese projects of the Deutschen Direkthilfe Organisation e.V, a German non-profit organization.

Japan – a country where the traditional and the modern exist side by side, where art and culture as well as science and research are unified at a world-class level, where the high-tech and the classical co-exist. A country of contrasts. A country worth getting to know better during Japan Week. Ulrike Herrlich, Judith Coenenberg, Romina Malandrino

More information at: <http://www.international.rub.de/japan/>



Pick-up service: Participants in the three-week orientation program are welcomed right as they arrive at Bochum's main train station.

THE BEST FOR OUR GUESTS

ESN Bochum takes care of its exchange students

Almost every student these days is or has been a foreign exchange student somewhere, at some time. And, of course, an exchange student in Bochum from Kiev, Ukraine, doesn't only want to study hard, but also wants to enjoy his time at their host university. The same holds true for the student from Bochum who's spending a semester abroad in, for example, Liège, Belgium. The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) helps make every student's stay abroad easier and more enjoyable. With branches called "Sections" at 374 higher education institutions across Europe, the ESN offers programs and services tailored to meet student needs, from arranging pick-ups from the train station to organizing group outings and soccer games. The first ESN Section in Germany was founded in Bochum in 1990. Today, about 25 students from Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) volunteer their time to take care of roughly 300 exchange students in Bochum.

"Our active students come from all fields of study," explains Joana Dewender, the current president of the ESN Bochum Section, "And foreign exchange students come from all over the world – America, Africa, Asia, and, of course, Europe. Only Australia isn't yet represented, as far

as I know." In addition to the 300 visiting students taking part in exchange programs (ERASMUS, DAAD), the ESN also provides services for international doctoral candidates.

The ESN's pick-up service is particularly helpful for new arrivals: exchange students can request to be picked up directly upon arrival at Bochum's main train station and brought to the dorm they'll be living in for up to 12 months. During their time in Bochum, exchange students can take advantage of the ESN's many offerings: going on excursions and tours of Bochum, watching soccer games, attending plays or musicals, going to parties, or just getting together at a local bar in the Bermudadreieck. But most of all, they can get to know other exchange students and German students, which helps them feel more at ease in their host country.

Getting involved

Students from Bochum who study abroad for one or two semesters at an institution that has an ESN Section get the same kinds of services as exchange students in Bochum. That's how Joana Dewender first became aware of the organization. As an exchange student in

Liège, Belgium, she was happy to have the support of ESN's services and offerings while there. "The ESN was very visible in Liège; that impressed me," she remembers. As soon as she returned to Bochum, she joined the ESN Section here. This is the most common way students find out about the ESN and become members. "And we are always looking for new members," adds the ESN Bochum President, who is studying politics and Oriental studies.

Because Dewender works as a student assistant in the International Office, she automatically collaborates closely with this part of RUB's central administration, which is responsible for supporting all international guests at RUB. "We coordinate what we offer, in terms of content as well as timing," the student explains.

Additional ESN partners include other student organizations at RUB, such as the student film group Studienkreis Film (SKF) or the campus radio station CT das radio. In May 2011, ESN and CT organized a joint workshop for exchange students and produced a radio show on "Exchange at RUB". The show was broadcast on the campus radio station at the end of June. ad

Info: <https://www.facebook.com/esn-bochum.vonnerub>.

EXCHANGE, EXPERIENCE, EXCITEMENT

Three questions for ESN Bochum Section President Joana Dewender RUBENS: How do you bring exchange students and German students together?

Joanna Dewender: Unfortunately, it's generally very difficult for exchange students to get to know the "natives", German students in our case, because they tend to shy away from investing much energy in seemingly short-lived relationships with exchange students. After all, exchange students are only in Bochum for six months or a year, maximum. But it's a misconception to think that these friendships only last that long; in fact, most people stay in long afterward and develop life-long friendships – sometimes even taking advantage of the chance to have a cheap vacation and visit their friends' home countries. This lets everyone have an exchange experience! I can really only encourage German students to get more involved with supporting exchange students and take part in ESN events. These events are one of the few ways exchange students can meet German students. Everyone is more than welcome!

What are some of the special events planned for exchange students in the winter semester?

A regularly updated list of events and ongoing services is posted on our website at <http://bochum.esngermany.org/> and also on our Facebook page (search for "ESN Bochum vonne RUB"). We often have impromptu events, so it pays to check in regularly. That said, one upcoming event which I can highly recommend is the "Deutscher Abend" (German Evening) in the Euroeck on November 13th. We want to introduce exchange students to German culture while sharing a hearty dinner. There is also the "ESN-Einbürgerungstest" (ESN Citizenship Test) during which we'll quiz participants about their knowledge of Germany. You can even win some great prizes. December 2nd to the 4th, the "ESNters" will take place in Berlin – this is the event of the semester (see <http://esnters.esngermany.org/> for more). Several German ESN sections will meet with the aim of strengthening the network for exchange students across Germany. The ESN sections from Bochum, Dortmund, and Düsseldorf (together with their respective exchange students) will travel together to



Berlin. And finally, on December 10th, there will be a Christmas party in the Kulturcafé, where we will celebrate and get into the holiday spirit together with the International Office and the Boskop Study Buddy program.

In one sentence: What can you promise exchange students who take part in your programs?

We can offer you what often gets neglected compared to your studies: a social life in Germany with other exchange students as well as Germans, lots of experience and excitement – there's a little something for everyone!

1,000 BRAZILIANS FOR THE UAMR

The first months in the liaison office ConRuhr Latin America

The University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr (UAMR) has been represented with its ConRuhr liaison offices in New York (since 2005) and Moscow (2009) for quite some time. In spring 2011, a new office opened its doors. Situated in the Brazilian metropolis Rio de Janeiro, ConRuhr Latin America will coordinate the activities of the UAMR universities Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen in the Latin American region. Its objective is to promote the Ruhr area in Latin America as an excellent academic and research hub and to support and organize research partnerships as well as joint academic projects. It aims at, for example, furthering student exchange programs, attracting excellent PhD students, and promoting research exchanges of scientists that entail, among other, joint degree and university partnership programs.

The launch of the liaison office was well timed: in spring 2011, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff had announced that ten percent of the recently added 100,000 international scholarships granted to Brazilian students will be assigned for exchange programs to Germany.

The office is headed by Prof. Dr. Christoph de Oliveira Käppler (TU Dortmund). He is assisted in his duties by Dr. Stephan Hollensteiner, who, based in Rio, is responsible for running the office on a full-time basis. Just like Prof. Käppler, Dr. Hollensteiner has established excellent relationships with universities across Latin America and had previously worked for the DAAD in Rio as well as the International Office of the TU Munich. The liaison office is located in the German Consulate building, in the section occupied by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst).

After returning from their recent trip to Brazil, Prof. Käppler and Dr. Hollensteiner visited the RUB and discussed ConRuhr Latin America with Arne Dessaul. It soon became apparent how enthusiastic they both are about their work and about Brazil.

A highly-frequented Office

RUBENS: How long have you been in Brazil and which places did you visit?

Prof. Käppler: Our visit lasted three weeks. One reason it was brought about was the German-Brazilian Economic Meeting in Rio. It was attended by a host of VIPs: German and Brazilian politicians, as well as high-ranking officials from science and research organizations, such as DAAD and DFG, and their Brazilian counterparts, CAPES and CNPq.

Dr. Hollensteiner: Subsequently, we visited the international offices of several large, high-brow public universities: Rio, Belo Horizonte and Brasilia. We wish to gather information about their existing cooperation programs, both for the teaching staff as well as for faculty members, just like we do in the Ruhr area. Moreover, we wish to assess future possibilities of university partnerships. In Brasilia, we also visited the DAAD counterpart CAPES.

Käppler: And we opened the office.

What is the office like? Do many people come in?

Hollensteiner: It is a pleasant, spacious room, furnished with a PC, printer, phone and a meeting table. The walls are covered in posters of the UAMR universities. From November on, when I'm there on a permanent basis, I will have fixed office hours.

Käppler: If you want to visit the office, you mustn't forget your ID. Since we are located in the German Consulate building, there are access controls.

Competitive Edge

The Brazilian government grants 100,000 scholarships for internation-



Rio – Ruhr – Rio: Christoph de Oliveira Käppler (right) and Stephan Hollensteiner (center) commute routinely (RUBENS reporter Arne Dessaul on the left)

al student exchange programs, both for students and for graduates. How many of them are likely to find UAMR universities an attractive option?

Käppler: This is precisely the question that was put to us on our Brazil journey in May, when German President Christian Wulff told us about this program after his meeting with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff. The UAMR rectors subsequently agreed that it will be possible to have 100 scholarship holders per university per annum. Considering that this program is scheduled for three years, this means 900 in total. We have then rounded up this number to 1,000.

Hollensteiner: Dilma Rousseff has assigned 10,000 scholarships for Germany. The 1,000 granted to us would thus make up an impressive percentage.

Käppler: Because we have already launched the ConRuhr Office in Rio, we have a slight competitive edge in any case. Other German universities will set up their office in the German House of Science and Innovation (Deutsches Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus, DWIH) in São Paulo. This, however, is yet to be officially inaugurated.

Hollensteiner: In due course, we will set up a second office in the DWIH so that we will eventually be represented on two locations.

What is the reason German universities are so attractive to Brazilian students?

Käppler: In Brazil, German ideas have traditionally prevailed as points of reference in the field of humanities, especially in philosophy, but also in linguistics and social science. Later, this was expanded to include natural science and technology as well. Germany is considered a true pioneer with regard to technological advancement, especially in terms of sustainability and environmental awareness.

Hollensteiner: Many Brazilians find the fact very appealing that everything is so much better organized in Germany.

Excellent Outlook

And vice versa? What does Brazil have to offer to German students?

Hollensteiner: A lot. For one, there's the *savoir-vivre* and hospitality...

Käppler: ...which also enrich overall cultural experience. Plus: Brazil is a large, vast country, abounding in wonders of nature ...

Hollensteiner: ...populated by people from different countries, who have been living together for centuries. Even though Brazil does have its own social conflicts, it is nevertheless a society in which the multicultural idea has been turned into practice.

Käppler: In addition to the indigenous Indian, African and European influences,

the largest Japanese expat community in the world can be found not, as one might think, in the USA, but in Brazil.

Hollensteiner: Not to forget the high standards of many Brazilian universities, especially with regard to post-graduate studies and research. Plus: If you remain in Brazil after graduation, you'll find yourself in an expanding market in a booming industrial country. For engineers in particular the job opportunities are excellent.

Käppler: And of course, you will acquire a sound knowledge of Portuguese which is useful in many regions of the world (Europe, Africa, Asia).

Are there any courses and lectures at Brazilian universities that are held in English?

Käppler: No, in your academic life, you will have to speak Portuguese. This changes, however, as soon as you work in research or in a corporate environment; here, communication is often conducted in English.

Major Events ...

Do other Latin American countries have similar programs?

Käppler: In Columbia, the government has recently decided that ten percent of the annual revenues generated in the growing energy industry should be invested into education and science. Therefore, in future we will increasingly focus on Columbia.

Hollensteiner: In addition, Mexico, Chile and Argentina are the countries that offer the largest scientific cooperation potential. In Argentina, for example, a German-Argentinean university center is currently being established, following the example of the German-French university and coordinated, among others, by the DAAD. But we will not pass by any of the Latin American countries.

Käppler: At the moment, Brazil is quite in the focus. Because of the events that will take place there in the next few years, the country is in an upbeat mood that, ultimately, rubs off on education and science: the UNO Sustainability Conference in 2012, the Year of Germany in 2012, the FIFA World Cup in 2014, and the Olympics and Paralympics in 2016, to name a few.

When are you next flying to Rio?

Hollensteiner: At the beginning of November. At first, I will spend some time in the liaison office, and subsequently, I'll be visiting education fairs in São Paulo and in Columbia.

Käppler: I'm flying to the exhibitions at the end of November. Quite possibly, this is when the DWIH office will open its doors, too. It all depends on which date will be confirmed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guido Westerwelle.

LAUGHING HIS WORRIES AWAY

RUB's first African student has passed away

Being an "international" university is not a new discovery, nor is it new to RUB. From its very beginnings, the university has attracted young people from all over the world to Bochum. In 1965, Felix Maxwell Amanor-Boadu of Ghana enrolled in the Fakultät (i.e., academic departments or faculties) of Philology as the first African student ever to attend RUB. He passed away this May at the age of 70.

"A huge and tall iroko [tree] in the forest of truth and sincerity... A man of fortitude and endurance, who would go to battle with you, stand shoulder to shoulder with you at the front, bind your wounds with his shirt and carry you back home, even as his knees buckled... A forthright man of unusual aplomb and candor who exudes kindness and forgiveness." This is how a colleague described the German Studies professor Prof. Felix Maxwell Amanor-Boadu in an obituary in the Nigerian Tribune. His German companions remember him most for his warm and generous nature. Max, as his fellow students called him, came from Ofoase in southern Ghana. As he was growing up, his home country was making its way toward independence and education was seen as the key to social advancement. Max was one of only a select few to receive a scholarship

Among other courses, he took "Introduction to Modern Literature I: At the Turn of the Century" with fellow student Heinz Menge, who recalls, "We covered the works of the writer Stanislaw Przybyszewski (pronounced 'pshibbishevské'). The name always made Max grin because he simply could not manage to pronounce it."

Remembering together

The way that Max's different perspective and culture enriched daily life at the university is remembered by another classmate at that time, Ulrich John: "Lots of our everyday problems, big or small, could be eased away with one of Max's hearty and soothing laughs." The political and social unrest that was beginning to take shape at and around German universities at that time was quickly put into perspective when Max compared it to the far more serious challenges facing people in Ghana. Pannenberg also has fond memories of his laughter. "Whenever a situation was really hopeless, he'd just sit down and laugh his head off. I'd be shocked and would ask him how he could laugh when things were so bad. And he'd say, 'Do you think cursing or getting angry helps?' And, of course, he was right."



Studied German language and literature at RUB in the 1960's: Felix Maxwell Amanor-Boadu from Ghana

from the Ghanaian government enabling him to study in Germany. In 1961, he left Ghana to study engineering in southern Germany, as his father, the patriarch of a large Ghanaian clan, had intended.

Two German loves

Max didn't last long among the engineering students, however. "His true love was using the German language to create works of art that represent reality," recalls Anne Pannenberg, Max's other German love and girlfriend of seven years. Despite the scholarship money, Max was still dependent on his father's financial support. And from his father's point of view, Bonn, then the capital of Germany, was the only place to pursue a degree in German studies. Max's father insisted that Max study close enough to Bonn for his uncle, the Ghanaian ambassador at that time, to keep an eye on him. And so Max had to choose between the universities in Bonn, Cologne, and Bochum. Max chose the newly founded RUB – among other reasons, because it was the farthest of the three institutions from Bonn and his uncle.

Max Amanor-Boadu majored in German studies and minored in sociology.

In 1971, Max wrote his master's thesis on "Emotions and Social Criticism in the Literature of Sentimentalism and Sturm und Drang" ("Gefühl und Sozialkritik in der Literatur der Empfindsamkeit und des Sturm und Drang") and graduated from RUB.

When his father passed away, Max returned to Ghana to be near his family and became the new head of his large clan. Max would return to RUB with a year-long scholarship from the Ghanaian government. He wanted to complete a doctorate in Bochum, but one year turned out to be too little time. Nevertheless, he did become a professor at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria in 1973 – located about 400 km from his home town – and was appointed head of the German department there.

Surrounded by close friends and family, Max succumbed to cancer on May 30, 2011. Even after his death, Max Amanor-Boadu touches the lives of his friends in Bochum. Heinz Menge, Anne Pannenberg, Ulrich John and two of his other fellow students have reconnected and planned a reunion. Today, Anne Pannenberg realizes: "I owe him an awful lot." *Tabea Steinhauer*