A Japanese tea ceremony normally takes place in a very simply decorated tea house. But inner peace and space for contempla-
tion is also to be found in front of the Teutawang Center. Psychology student Anika Ehlers, of Germa
n-Japanese heritage, is trained traditionally in a kōan. She prepares tea for herself and Romina Malandros, 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).

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 its ongoing pursuit to make the RUB more international, across all RUB departments, the admin-
istration fulfills a vital part: it is here that cross-sectional tasks are performed and parameters for international activities are drawn up. The internationalization strat-
egy 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 point of contact for international RUB mem-
bers. The RUB Senate will be called during the annual Academic Celebration revisits the past year in words and pictures, and acknowledges great accomplish-
ments 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 Tongi University will receive a very special honor.

Over 30 years ago, RUB had the great honor of becoming Tongi University’s first foreign partner university. In 1990, to celebrate RUB’s 25th anni-
versary and the 10th year of its part-
nership with the Shanghai university, Tongi University presented the RUB with the campus’s Chinese-style gar-
den 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 Rec-
tor, Professor Elmar Weiler, will pres-
ent his Chinese counterpart, Professor Gang Pei, with the award “Pro Societate honoris causa.”

This year’s festivities will have performances of both will remain undisclosed until the celebration. As is customary, the RUB Rectorate will also announce special awards given to outstanding graduates from all disciplines of the university.

A number of other awards will be given out during the celebration, such as the RUB University Bochum badge of honor, as well as the Lore Agnes Prize recognizing special projects to advance gender equality: the recipi-

ents of both will remain undisclosed until the celebration. As is customary, the RUB Rectorate will also announce special awards given to outstanding graduates from all disciplines of the university.

All students and members of the RUB community, including family members, 9-kends, and supporters of RUB, are invited to attend this year’s 12th Annual Academic Celebration. International members of the univer-
sity are especially encouraged to join in the festivities. 
Information: www.rub.de/jahresfeier

A first step towards this goal has now been taken: the administrative depart-
ments and offices have appointed “inter-
national 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 in-
terest in international issues who display outstanding administrative capabilities as well as international competencies and have a good grasp of English. In future, they are going to be helpful international vis-
tees navigate through their areas of com-
petence, assisting them in finding the right point-of-contact, and, if necessary, offer advice, answer questions and, should the occasion arise, translate for them, un-
til the matter at hand is resolved. They ful-
fill the role of first points-of-contact within their department or function, both for the departmental staff as well as for interna-
tional visitors. By infusing troubleshoot-
ing ideas, the pilots facilitate knowledge gain of their administrative department or office and, ultimately, help to improve overall service. As a result, business pro-
cesses 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 pre-

sentation, all of which posed complex in-
ternational challenges that had to be re-

solved. Working as a team, the pilots tried to
find answers and solutions. The exam-

ples 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 repre-
sent the RUB at an international trade fair during her one-year internship abroad. All fictitious cases were presented with the answers they needed—after all, the con-
tacts from all administrative bodies were gathered around the same table. “This is what cooperation should always look like—such as everyone’s conclusion after the first meeting,” Ulrike Hartl

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL PILOTS

Claudia Haun, Dezernat 1 | Dr. Heike Hunnesgah, Dezernat 2 | Ute Sode, Dezernat 3 | Amanda Warrenweiler, Dezernat 4 | Ina Schweizer, Dezernat 5 | Mirjam Müller-Bickert, Dezernat 5 | Dr. Christine Loehaus, Dezernat 6 | Carsten Sander, Dezernat 6 | Wilcke Kraft, Dezernat 7 | Christoph Jochindke, Justizrat | Bea Schiller, Stabsstelle Strategische PR und Markenbildung | Uwe Kofmann, Stabsstelle Organisation – Entwicklung – Beratung | Ralf Otto, Stabsstelle Learning | Friederike Bergstedt, Stabsstelle Interne Fortbildung und Beratung (Dezernat = administrative department; Stabsstelle = office)
SO MANY TINY CARS!
First Summer School with Drexel University

From July 4th 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 and Professor Georg Schmidt, 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 1-St. 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 “Eitrachtest” 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 Hagen [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 open house].

Throughout the semester, program participants took part in a number of other excursions and visits to local sites such as the Zeche Zollverein (a re-purposed coal mine which is now a center for creative businesses and the arts), the Forge Brewery, Buer, the Opel test factory, the RUB 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.

Katja Helme

NEW PARTNER IN EAST ASIA
RUB has found a new East Asian partner in Seoul’s Sogang University. A high-ranking delegation from Sogang visited Bochum on October 13th, during which time the four university representatives from the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture, Dr. Magdalena Bichmann, Dr. Stijn Claus, Mr. Tae Pyun Kim, and Mr. Chang Il Yoon, were welcomed by RUB’s Vice-Rector Dr. Andreas Bullerjahn, the Dean of the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture, Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Möhrmann, and Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef M. Ditsch, the Dean of the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture.

The delegation was then taken on a tour of the Bochum campus. The visitors’ itinerary included a visit to the departmental facilities, which means that course participation is open to both university students as well as non-students.

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 already got 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 that. So, I just looked in the Yellow Pages and found The Beachcomber’s website.

Is that how you learned about The Beachcomber?

Yes, that’s right. You could read entire issues online, and the online title of the paper appealed to me. I noticed that they regularly published articles written by interns. In other words, I was certain applicants from Bochum just one day after I applied. I owed that to Dr. Steve Wrenn’s recommendation.

综语工作与乐趣
是什么让你认为实习是值得的呢?

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 review searches, and corrected tests. During the lessons, I was asked to correct students’ pronunciation. The MICT 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 have for your fellow RUB students who would like to get practical experience abroad?

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 would 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 well as mentioning that you have completed language courses. It also helps if you mention right away that your (health) insurance is taken care of, as well as mentioning that you have completed language courses.

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 last years. An internship abroad is a great way to gain valuable 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 RUB’s Bochum Bochum provides useful information concerning the search and placement of internships and coordinating paperwork.

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 € 500 per month from the EU’s ERASMUS Student Mobility Program for an independently organized internship in an EU member state and in Iceland, Croatia, Swissland, 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. Yes, what is it really like to intern abroad? RUBENS interviewed two RUB students who recently returned from England and the USA.

LEARNING IN SHEFFIELD

Prof. Dr. John Pollak, Director of the MLTC, held an introductory lecture to the participants. Afterwards, Dr. Ines Seraji, the Head of MLTC, presented an overview of the MLTC’s services. The students were then introduced to the partners of the program, Sogang University and the Sheffield Institute of International and European Studies.

Students gave a presentation on their own country and culture, as well as on their university and its teaching methods. After the presentations, the students had the opportunity to visit the Sheffield campus. During the tour, it quickly became clear that in the USA everything is a little bit bigger. At the 1-St. 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 “Eitrachtest” 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 Hagen [an historic coking plant] in Dortmund, the Dortmund “U” (a re-purposed brewery, new art center), and Bochum’s Own Westpark [a completely transformed industrial area, now home to a park and open house].

Throughout the semester, program participants took part in a number of other excursions and visits to local sites such as the Zeche Zollverein (a re-purposed coal mine which is now a center for creative businesses and the arts), the Forge Brewery, Buer, the Opel test factory, the RUB 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
Almost every student these days do or has been a foreign exchange student somewhere, at some time. And, of course, an exchange student from Bochum from Russia, Ukraine, or China 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, Löwe, Belgium. The Japan Info Day (ESN) helps make every student’s stay abroad as easy and more enjoyable. With less than one month of “Sections” at 25+ different education institutions across Europe, the ESN offers programs and services tailored to their needs. Three study weeks, from arranging pickup from the train station to organizing group outings and soccer games. The first ESN Section in Germany was founded in Bochum in 1995. Today, about 25 students from Ruhr University Bochum (RUB) volunteer their time to take care of roughly 300 exchange students in Bochum.

“Every student comes 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. On-

ly Austria isn’t yet represented, as far as I know.” In addition to the yearly 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 student candidates can request to be picked up directly upon arrival at Bochum’s main train station and brought to the dorm they’re living in for up to 12 months. During their time in Bochum, exchange students can take advantage of numerous cultural offerings: going on excursions and tours of Bochum, watching soccer games, attending a musical or play, 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 of the awareness. As an exchange student in Liege, Belgium, she was happy to have the support of ESN’s services and offer-ings while there. “The ESN was very vis-ible in Liege, that impressed me,” she remembers. As soon as she returned to Bochum, she joined the ESN Section here. This is the most common way to find out about the ESN and become members. “And we are always looking for new members,” adds the ESN Bochum Presi-dent, who is studying politics and Orien-tal 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 interna-tional 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 Studenfilmerei (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. Info: https://www.facebook.com/esn-bochum

EXCHANGE, EXPERIENCE, ENCOUNTER

Three questions for ESN Bochum Section President Joana Dewender RUBENS:

How do you bring ex-change students and German stu-dents together?

Joana 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 stay 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, people stay in long afterward and develop long-lasting friendships – sometimes even tak-ing advantage of the chance to have a cheap vacation and visit their friends’ home countries. This lets everyone have an exchange experience! I can re-call only once that German students had to get more involved with supporting expression and excitement – there’s a little something for everyone.

In her free time, student Anika Elbert volunteers at the Japanese-German Culture Work-shop (www.werkstatt-japan.de). Here, she is sitting in the cafeteria enjoying an origami, a flavor-ful Japanese rice ball. The cafeteria will be serving Japanese delicacies during Japan Week.

THE BEST FOR OUR GUESTS

ESN Bochum takes care of its exchange students

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 web-site at http://bochum.esn-germany.org/ and also on our Facebook page (search for “ESN Bochum vorne RUB”). We of-ten have impromptu events, so it pays to check in regularly. That said, one up-coming event which I highly recom-mend is the “Deutscher Abend” (German Evening) in the Euzeck on November 13th. We want to introduce exchange students to German culture while shar-ing a hearty dinner. There is also the “ESN-Einheitsburgerfest” (ESN Citizen-Shirt) during which we’ll stage projects about their knowledge of Germany. You can even win some great prizes. De-cember 2nd to the 4th, the “ESNers” will take place in Berlin – this is the event of the semester (see http://euniversites-germamy.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 Duis-beldorf together with their respective ex-change students, will travel together to Berlin. And finally, on December 10th, there will be a Christmas party in the Kulturhaus, where we will celebrate and get into the holiday spirit together with the International Office and the Bursary Student programs.

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

We can offer you what often gets re-garded compared to your studies in a so-cial life in Germany with other exchange students as well as Germans, lots of ex-perience and excitement – there’s a little something for everyone.
The University Alliance Metropolis RUB (UAM) has been represented with its Liaison Office in New York (since 2015) and Moscow (2019) 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 UAM 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 students will have fixed office hours. November on, when I’m there on a permanent basis as well as for faculty members, just gathering information about their existing counterparts, CAPES and CNPq.

When are you next flying to Rio? Hollensteiner: In the next few years, the country is in an upbeat mood that, ultimately, relies on education and science. The UN Sustainability Conference in 2012, the Year of Germany in 2012, the FIFA World Cup in 2014, and the Olympics and Paralympics in 2016. This will be a huge boost for the network of German studies.

In 2013, Max received a scholarship from the German government enabling him to study in Germany. In 1968, he left Ghana to study engineering in southern Germany, as his father, the patriarch of a large Ghanaian clan, had intended.

When his father passed away, Max returned to Ghana to bear 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 Ghana in 1973 – located about 400 km from his home town – and was appointed head of the department.

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 Pannenborg, Ulrich John and two of his other close fel low students have requested and planned a reunion. Today, Anne Pannenborg realizes: “I owe him an awful lot.”

The first months in the liaison office ConRuhr Latin America

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 students will have fixed office hours.

Nov 2011

When you first visited the office, what is your impression? Hollensteiner: It is a spacious, modern-looking building with big windows, a reception and a meeting table. The walls are covered in posters of the UAM universities. From November on, when I’m there on a permanent basis, I will have fixed office hours.

If you want to visit the office, you forget your ID. Since we are located in the German consulate building, there are access controls.

The Brazilian government grants 100,000 scholarships for internation...