

NEW SUPPLEMENT: CAMPUS WITHOUT BORDERS



INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS

RUB is to become an "International Campus": study courses are to be more internationally-oriented than before. Periods abroad and foreign language events are embedded in all study courses. The professorships and laboratories of RUB are working in equally international as well as interdisciplinary research groups on global issues, individual researches are well connected internationally; this is happening to a large extent even now. The canteen menu, the signage, further education offers, all administration forms are completely available in German and English. Information and notices are of course bilingual and formulated to be easily understood by an intercultural audience. The 'internationalisation strategy', which was adopted by the rectorate during the summer semester 2010, set the course for the future vision of the "International Campus"

EDITORIAL: BILINGUAL CAMPUS

Dear Readers,
You hold in your hands the first edition of RUBENS International in the English language. This international supplement to RUBENS will appear regularly from now on, generally once per semester, to inform you about the current topics and news of the international campus. We are thrilled about this premiere and hope you feel the same.

People from over 125 countries study at the Ruhr-Universität and even the administration has employees from foreign countries. Cosmopolitanism is one of our university guidelines, as is also anchored within our motto: "humane – cosmopolitan – efficient". The RUB has always been cosmopolitan, but this development has gathered speed within the last few years and the RUB will continue to significantly develop in this area over the next few years.

A visible signal for this focus is not just the newly created "Prorectorate for young scientists and international matters", which is headed by Prof. Dr. Nils Metzler-Nolte (simultaneously Dean of the "RUB Research School"), who will take his office on the 1st December. It also includes the adoption of a comprehensive internationalisation strategy last winter semester, which was established in an intense design process under cooperation of numerous members of the university

and committees of the RUB. On pages 1 and 2 of this edition as well as in the internet (www.international.rub.de/profil/strategie) you will find the short version of the strategic guidelines for the further development of our university on a worldwide scale. Copies of the strategy text (in German or English) can be obtained at the International Office also in hardcopy.

It is important that everyone can and should contribute to make cosmopolitanism beyond all national, cultural, ethnical or religious affiliation an integral basic principle of our cohabitation.

RUBENS International as an English supplement to RUBENS should not just reach as many members of the RUB as possible who don't speak German, but generally a maximum of our members. From now on you will particularly find international topics, but sometimes also regular RUBENS articles, which will appear here again in the English language. Both German and English are now official

campus languages. You'll notice that bit by bit all important texts, documents and forms will become available in both languages and that also the signposts and navigation systems at the campus will be expanded in this manner. This will take a little while and we welcome suggestions from our readers. *Elmar Weiler, Rector of the Ruhr-Universität*



With the adoption of this comprehensive strategy RUB is announcing more clearly than ever that the subject of internationalisation is way at top of the list of priorities. The strategy, which emerged during many discussions with students and doctoral candidates, with scientists and administrative staff, is an impressive document, a commitment to international openness and the affiliation with the global community of all researchers – teachers and students. Preceding the strategy are the principles of internationalisation, meaning the 10 most important principles for the overall concept of RUB and the areas of teaching, research, administration and communication.

Tailor-made info

Of course, the Ruhr-Universität is undertaking international activities since its foundation at an impressive extent and in a multiply awarded quality. Approximately 4500 foreign students want to graduate from RUB, approximately 2700 of those came to Germany specifically for their studies. Added to this are approximately 350 exchange students annually, over 400 are completing study-periods abroad every year. Approximately 600 foreign doctoral candidates are enrolled here and over 300 guest scientists teach and undertake research at RUB every year. All these groups are already provided with tailor-made information and specific services. As a part of the 'University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr' RUB is represented in New York and Moscow with its own service offices, offers master's programmes in Cape Town in South Africa and in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, assists in the academic re-establishment in south-east Europe, successfully conducts two study programmes at the Chinese-German University College at the Tongji University in Shanghai and conducts international study programmes with dual or joint graduation.

In future, RUB wants to utilise the potential of its numerous international

members and activities for a true and profound internationalisation in a more systematic manner than in the past. All members of the University are asked for their participation and all areas of activity will be taken into account.

Internationality in education involves three main areas: the internationalisation of study programmes and curricula, such

DOWNLOAD BOX

The internationalisation strategy is available for downloading and in printed version, respectively in German and English. Download and further information at www.international.rub.de/profil/strategie, printed issues as well as the poster with the 10 principles of internationalisation are available at the International Office. Contact: Ulrike Herrlich, Phone. 24747, Email: ulrike.herrlich@uv.rub.de

as courses taught in English or joint study programmes offered by an international consortium, the recruitment and integration of foreign students through targeted marketing and intensive support and the increase of student mobility, for example by expanding double and joint programmes, creating integrated windows for studies abroad and establishing scholarship offers.

The main issues in the research sector are to create suitable conditions which encourage the scientists of RUB to organise more international conferences at RUB, conduct more international cooperation projects or invite highly respected guests from abroad for research projects at RUB.

Internationality will be practiced by all members of RUB and will also be projected to the public by all members of the University, for example through the participation in international exhibitions, congresses and seminars. Thus all members of RUB, its alumni but also its guests should consider themselves as ambassadors of the university.

The administration, as the first point of contact for many new members of the university, develops a new self-image. The objective is to create a natural interaction with international clientele in all areas of administration. One important aspect of the engineering of business processes is the consideration that people of various cultural backgrounds have to pass through them.

The internationalisation strategy of the Ruhr-Universität is substantiated by a detailed catalogue based on an analysis of the current situation and illustrating the objectives and measures for the systematic implementation of the strategy. The implementation of the strategy does not just establish an international flair and a certain form of cosmopolitanism at specified locations and facilities of RUB, but throughout the entire campus. As internationalisation is a true cross-sectional task, the project can only be successful if it is accepted, implemented and realised by all members on all levels.

Various activities which already exist, and the numerous ideas and suggestions, which emerged purely as a result of discussing the contents of the strategy throughout the campus, give cause to optimism. RUB and all its members have long been moving in the right direction. *Monika Sprung, Ulrike Herrlich*



„PEOPLE ARE LIKE MAGNETS“

Padma Shukla is the first holder of the post of “International Chair” of the RUB

Prof. Padma Kant Shukla is a highly decorated scientist with excellent international contacts. The plasma physicist has received over 25 awards in the last five years alone. One outstanding achievement is the Nicholson Medal, which Shukla received in 2005, the first Western European to do so. The American Physical Society has awarded this medal since 1994 for the consideration of human aspects in physical research. In 2006 Shukla was furthermore the first German citizen to be appointed into the physics class of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Shukla thus nominates physicists for the Nobel Prize. For his services to the international relationships of the Ruhr Universität he recently received the first „International Chair“ of the RUB. During the next five years Shukla will facilitate the network transcending borders and divisions as an ambassador and further increase the reputation of the RUB abroad. Thorben Sommer spoke to him about it.

RUBENS: You are the first occupant of the “International Chair” of the RUB. Congratulations!

Prof. Shukla: Thank you very much. I was thrilled to receive this honour. I am very grateful to Rector Weiler.

RUBENS: What exactly are your tasks?

Prof. Shukla: It will be my task to represent the university on an international level. I see myself as the ambassador of the Ruhr Universität. My main concern is to help the young generation and to educate young scientists. We want to bring them into the RUB from abroad and show them what we are working on.

RUBENS: Which direction should the RUB take in the future?

Prof. Shukla: Well, ideally all directions. In order to internationalise the university

we need young scientists. They are our ambassadors and transport a positive image to other countries. The RUB could show even more presence in Eastern Europe. We are still underrepresented in Russia, the Ukraine and the Georgian Republic. We also have to collaborate closer with South America and China.

RUB's reputation

RUBENS: A view from outside often first shows the strengths and weaknesses of a university. What is still missing at the RUB?

Prof. Shukla: What we need at the RUB is a European elite, which practices world class science and represents us abroad. There is no alternative to the advancement of projects of excellence. The standard of the tuition has to be kept up constantly and good researchers should also be presented internationally. The international competition is huge and one can only obtain funds for research projects if the result is internationally visible. I travel a lot and can tell you that people know where the RUB is.

RUBENS: Does that mean the RUB is also known internationally?

Prof. Shukla: Yes. That is also due to scientists such as the Vice-Rector for Research Prof. Ulf Eysel or Rector Prof. Elmar Weiler. We need more people like this at the Ruhr Universität. The education system in Germany is good and our good reputation has to be our priority. We have great potential. Internationalisation does not stop at the European borders, but goes far beyond.

RUBENS: What exactly attracts foreign scientists to come to Bochum?

Prof. Shukla: Mainly the good collaboration of the people at the RUB. People are



Prof. Padma Kant Shukla: “I have a program of what I want to accomplish in one day and just work through it.”

like magnets, they attract each other. Scientists here have great opportunities to realise ideas and move into new directions. Some do not have the option to research in their native country and to work at a university. Those conducting research at a renowned university such as the RUB often subsequently improve their reputation in their native country.

Out of the cage

RUBENS: Why should students spend time abroad?

Prof. Shukla: Time abroad is important to get to know other cultures and experience different attitudes. We don't live in a cage and should look at our situation also from the outside. People in Germany complain about so many things, but when you look at it from the outside you can see how well off we really are. Students should travel abroad for six months or a year to meet other people, but also to learn languages. Chinese and Russian for example become more and more important.

RUBENS: You have been awarded with many scientific distinctions. What characteristics does one need to be so successful?

Prof. Shukla: Hard work is very important. Nothing comes from nothing. Self motivation and people who can motivate us are an essential component. My personal secret recipe is positive thinking. People in Germany are often too pessimistic and thus create problems, which really need not exist. One cannot always assume success; whether one is successful or respected is always defined by other people. It is also possible that something does not happen at the right time.

RUBENS: You don't just look after your research projects and the internationalisation of the RUB, but you are also a member in many committees worldwide. How do you manage to do justice to all of your commitments?

Prof. Shukla: As I said before, hard work takes number one position with me. I have a program of what I want to accomplish in one day and just work through it. Discipline and self control are very important to be successful. On the other hand I have a lot of fun in my job and a positive attitude keeps me going.

RUBENS: Even though you campaign for the internationalisation, your main task is the research. What are your current projects about?

VITA

Padma Kant Shukla was born in Tulapur, India in 1950. He graduated at age 21 and went to the University Umea (Sweden). In 1973 he came to the RUB and since then has worked at the faculty for physics and astronomy. Shukla is a member of the Max-Planck-Institute for plasma physics and for extraterrestrial physics as well as honorary doctor of the TU Lisbon. He is also the publisher and co-publisher of several professional magazines. Padma Kant Shukla has been a German citizen since 1993. He has published more than 1000 articles in international professional magazines and achieved numerous advances through his research, in particular in the field of plasma-theory.

Prof. Shukla: I have one project, which is about the calculation of so-called freak waves. But that is rather a hobby of mine. I am also occupied with topics in nanotechnology, with X-rays, but also with electrical waves which can be applied in medicine. My interests are rather broad.



Latest honour “International Chair”: Prof. Shukla has just received the nomination certificate from Rector Prof. Elmar Weiler.

FOR THOSE WHO LONG TO TRAVEL

5th Exhibition Grenzenlos (without borders) on the topic “study and work abroad”

From the Ruhr-Universität into the world! Unlimited opportunities to live abroad for a time open up during the studies. The exhibition ‘Grenzenlos’ (without borders) on the 9. December at the Audimax provides an overview over the various ways into distant countries. Everyone with itchy feet can get information at the exhibition booths of the over 40 international exhibitors and during talks about studies and work abroad.

Gaining international experience, speaking another language and being familiar with other cultures are today some of the most sought after skills of university graduates in the job market. Studies and practical training abroad thus become a bonus in every C.V. International experience also provides new professional perspectives and offers the opportunity to experience another country, its language and culture.

In order to facilitate the road abroad for young students, the Ruhr Universität (centrally via the International Office) as well as



So many destinations...

the individual departments entertain numerous collaborations to partnership universities worldwide. Delegations from France, Poland, Belarus and China will present their

universities in the exhibition. International institutions and public facilities such as the Deutscher Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) (German Academic Exchange Ser-

vice) and the Zentrale Auslands- und Fachvermittlung of the Federal Employment Agency (ZAV) will provide information regarding the organisation and financing of studies abroad. The spectrum of exhibitors is rounded off with the international student organisations AIESEC and IAESTE as well as charitable organisations for the intercultural collaboration and private organisers of language travels.

A warm-up-week to the exhibition is offered for the first time this year. Renowned trainers of the Career Service provide tips

for applications in the English language, the search for an internship abroad and the correct international business conduct during intense training sessions. “Grenzenlos” is now organised for the fifth time; it is a successful project of the Career Service and the International Office of the RUB. Teresa Sitzmann

Info: Exhibition “Grenzenlos. Study and work abroad”, Thursday, 9th December 2010, 9.30 - 15.30 h Audimax of the RUB, www.rub.de/grenzenlos

ABOUT US

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FROM BOCHUM TO PRINCETON – OR VICE VERSA

Reach and other tailor-made exchange programs at the RUB

The opportunity to go abroad during undergraduate or postgraduate studies has over many years developed from a special adventure of the few to an experience which is more and more taken for granted. The variety of the demand leads to increasingly differentiated offers.

If some ten years ago it was predominantly the classical study year abroad, which was subsidised with scholarships and mostly conducted at partner universities, today shorter and partially research-oriented trips are also in focus. The classic idea of one semester or a year in a European country with the Erasmus Programme continues to be very popular and directs about 400 students of the RUB to one of the Erasmus Partner Universities every year.

In addition to or instead of a prolonged study abroad it is also possible to complete an internship or one of the interesting specialised summer programs worldwide. Another attractive option is to write a master thesis whilst abroad. New study places at partner universities are added every year, for example new exchange places were recently agreed upon with the National Taiwan University, the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil or for medical students at the Nara University and the Hiroshima University in Japan.

Tailor-made program formats are designed and tested and corresponding service and ancillary offers are expanded at the RUB. The International Office (IO) advises in matters of support options and writes out scholarships for such projects. One interesting example for a new format is the



Sight for sore eyes: The building of the Princeton University

REACH-program (Research Internships in Science and Engineering) conducted by the ConRuhr-Office New York, the RUB Research School and the IO as a pilot project. In this project American students attend the RUB for two months in order to complete a research internship in a university department together with German courses and a cultural and patrimonial framework program. This offer attracted the world-leading universities Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania as partners, for the first time allowing students and doctoral candidates of the RUB to attend those Universities for a research internship this year. In future this

program is to be conducted with further first-rate American Universities in context with the entire University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr (UAMR).

From Princeton in Bochum

And what are the Princeton students saying about their experiences in Bochum? They had a great time and would love to come back! Here a few quotes:

Kwesi Adarkwa (Internship with Prof. Eckhart Hofmann): “(the knowledge and experience gained at RUB) should prove useful this year, as my senior thesis centres on laser design and testing. In addition, I found my coworkers in my lab research group really friendly and helpful. They helped me get up to speed on the project in no time, provided great insights that eased my burdens, and engaged me in conversation that made for great cultural learning. (...) The combined factors of great research, a great environment, and amazing trips made this into one of my most enjoyable and memorable summers.”

Eve Hanson (Internship with Prof. Gunther Eggeler): “(...) each and every member (of the lab) went out of their way to make me feel welcome. I also ended up learning how to weld in a class that was taught completely in German! The biweekly German

class was a great way to learn the survival German skills needed to navigate the country. Also, since it included students from all over the world, the English class turned into a fascinating cultural exchange of its own. The lab had all kinds of outings, including a day excursion to a local historical coal mine. World Cup games were always a valid reason to leave the lab early to watch with your coworkers. Being in Europe for the World Cup is really an experience that cannot be replicated in the States (...).”

Lillian Zhou (Internship with Prof. Ahmad-Reza Sadeghi): “Apparently the buildings at Bochum University were designed to resemble ships, because the architects wanted to create a “port of learning”. Whether or not my host students were pulling my leg, I felt that the other undergraduates, researchers, and faculty I worked with this summer brought wisdom and experience from their respective corners of the ocean. (...) Besides work, there were plenty of chances to explore Germany with the other interns: backpacking, camping, day-long train rides across country, museums, performances, night festivals, and various forms of German fast food (free tip: never turn down currywurst). Living near the university meant we had plenty of interaction with English-speakers, while a twice-weekly German language course gave us a rudimentary vocabulary. Through

planned activities, we met other international students, but perhaps most astonishing was the friendliness of the native Germans, who were as eager to share their home with us as we were to experience it.”

From Bochum to Princeton

And the Ivy-League visitors from Bochum were also thrilled: Kai Oberste-Ufer: “The two month internship at the Princeton University was a very valuable and inspiring experience – both from a personal as well as a professional perspective. The stay has significantly broadened my scientific horizon in my field of engineering. It was also a great experience to see the academic life at one of the most recognized universities in the world. During my internship I made contact with people from all over the world and I discovered a kind of hospitality that is outstanding (...).”

Fabian Unterumsberger: “I had the pleasure of working with several graduate- and undergraduate students, exchanging ideas and results with different parts of this project. Also the discussions with scientists showed me how research is done at Princeton. This experience was amazing and helped me to look at the research and results of my Ph.D. project in Germany from another angle. Also, the contact with students on other summer programs such as REU at Princeton was a great way to make new friends and spend my spare time enjoying culture, tourism and some sport.”

Philipp Mertmann: “The time scales during work are significantly less than I am used to from here. There are lots of short meetings with the boss and the steps for the next few days are discussed. Compared with my course in Bochum the group is small but very international. I am joining two Chinese ladies, two Greeks and a few Americans and am perfectly integrated – personally and scientifically. As soon as I have completed parts of my programming tasks they are immediately used by members of the group to produce results for their research. Toward the end we even decided to write a paper about my work, not a bad result for just eight weeks.” Jutta Schmid

Further general information on scholarships and places at partner universities: www.international.rub.de/ausland/studium



Four students from Princeton and their tutor at the RUB (from top left: Lillian Zhou, Fred Orsita, Kwesi Adarkwa, Kelly Weeks, Niklas Füllner)

FROM CANTEEN TO RENTAL AGREEMENT

RUBiss is the first point of contact for international students

“Ah ... excuse me, where can I find the Mensa? And what is VSPL?” RUBiss is the best place to help with those questions. RUBiss, the International Student Service of the Ruhr-Universität at the International Office is the first point of contact for international students.

“We advise and assist in all questions concerning registration, life at the university and of course also in Germany in general” explains Sarah Stücken, who represents the core of the RUBiss team together with Elena Díaz, Ulrike Herrlich and Ruthild Schulte. Newcomers from around the world are introduced to the campus, to Bochum and the Ruhr area during the Orientation Course (O-Course) and the Orientation Week (O-Week). “We organise campus rallies, city tours, visits of the mining museum and the coal mine Zollverein, excursions to Cologne and Münster and much more”, says Sarah Stücken.

Less exciting but all the more important for exchange students, many of whom speak very little German at the beginning of their studies at RUB, are the administrative items of the programme. “Open-

ing a bank account, rental agreements, registration at city hall, we are trying to make all these things as simple and quick as possible for the students to help them start their semester without any problems” explains Sarah Stücken. The services are not just limited to the start of the studies, but are available throughout the entire semester. “Whenever someone needs help, he or she has come to the right place with us.”

The RUBiss team is currently supported in all of these activities by 15 tutors. At the beginning of this semester, the four permanent tutors accompanied around 100 international exchange students at all excursions and activities of the 3-week-long O-course and were on call almost around the clock. There is a lot to do – not only during the O-week: “We have planned events over the entire semester including international evenings, a Christmas party and excursions to places like Berlin”, says the RUBiss member, looking at the semester programme, which is also available as a brochure from the International Office.

For more information there is also a handbook from RUBiss available for the currently approximately 4500 international students at RUB. 19 chapters provide insight into everything worth knowing about RUB and



Waiting and discussing

life in Bochum, including important contact addresses. The handbook is stored on a USB stick bracelet as a PDF-file, so that students can always have it handy. International students can obtain the USB stick from the International Office free of charge.

Without a doubt the internet is of great significance for international students.

Meetings are organised, photos exchanged, friends are found and lots more. That is why RUBiss has a Facebook group, where events and tips and notices regarding the student life are broadcast. The students can furthermore gain quick access to the tutors and other “internationals”. Nadia Al-Massalemeh
Info: www.international.rub.de/rubiss



Orientation Course 2010



Photo: Egbert Trogemann, Düsseldorf

One of 100 participants of the project: the Sánchez Malavè family from Venezuela

100 LIGHTS FOR 2010

The 'Moderne' collection of the RUB presents a portrait series

100 large-size portraits have been exhibited in the art collections since the end of October. They show 100 people connected with RUB, among others current and former students and lecturers. Every one of the 100 has his/her roots in another country, now lives in the Ruhrgebiet and simultaneously stands for the cultural diversity of the region. The artist Mischa Kuball has visited them, spoken with them, photographed and filmed them and presented them with a lamp. That is why the exhibition is titled "New Pott. 100 Lichter/100 Gesichter" (100 lights/100 faces); it is a part of the cultural capital project RUHR KUNST MUSEEN (RUHR ART MUSEUMS).

The participants

Victoria Del Valle was born and raised in Germany. Her grandparents originally came from Spain. As is common for many migrants, her parents have always tried to interest her in Spanish culture. However, she primarily feels like a European. Del Valle works as a lecturer at the Romanic Seminar of the RUB. Josef König was raised in Brazil and now lives in Bochum. He considers himself to be a Brazilian, a European and a German (primarily a Brazilian when it comes to football). He is the press officer of the Ruhr Universität. Naveed Ahmed Shaik likes the contrast between German and Pakistani culture. He says that if he did not want to experience and enjoy the German culture, he could have stayed in Pakistan. Thus Shaik is a member of the RUB professorship for development research. Yu-

Jin Lee was brought to the Ruhrgebiet by her studies. Originally from South Korea, she had her heart set on studying Roman history. That was not possible for her in Korea, but it is here in Bochum, so Yu-Jin Lee studies at the RUB.

And what do these four and the other 96 people have in common? They are participants in an extraordinary project of the Kulturhauptstadt RUHR.2010: "New Pott. 100 Lichter/100 Gesichter". "New Pott" is a reference to the colloquial term for the Ruhrgebiet ("pott"). The "100 Gesichter (faces) are of course the participants and the "100 Lichter" (lights) are the lights, which Mischa Kuball has designed. The artist from Düsseldorf has developed and implemented this participatory project.

The visits

Kuball has visited the 100 people together with the photographer Egbert Trogemann and presented each one of them with a light. The two of them travelled all over the Ruhrgebiet for months. Kuball got the names and addresses from the International Office of the Ruhr Universität. He was searching for people with foreign roots and a connection to the Ruhr Universität. Students, lecturers, employees and former members from 100 nations got in touch: from Holland to Sri Lanka, from Norway to Korea. In their living rooms, kitchens or studies Mischa Kuball first installed the lamp, which illuminates the private sphere and turns it into a stage where artist and people meet. Then these people told Kuball of their migration and life stories, of their

experiences between the cultures. Egbert Trogemann documented these encounters photographically and recorded them on film.

That is why not only the portraits (black and white, respectively with and without the person) are exhibited at the Campus Museum of the RUB, but also 100 videos. When you look at them you will soon see how successful Kuball was in communicating with his respective counterparts. As he explains, he had no set interview concept. He mostly poses a similar initial question (which is not on the video) and then spontaneously reacts to what he is being told. The only common denominator in this process is the lamp he brought.

The exhibition

Now the exhibition is the focal point for six months. It is no coincidence that Kuball has decided on a close cooperation with the Ruhr Universität: "It stands for so much," he says, "it is the first newly founded university in the Federal Republic of Germany, on top of all that in an area which is traditionally seen as poorly educated. It also has something quite unusual for German colleges, it has an art collection". And that is just where these portraits are exhibited; visitors can access a digital archive via a touch screen, where the (colour) films can be viewed. The screen shows the outline of the Ruhrgebiet, but instead of the names of the cities and suburbs are the names of 100 countries. Two other, smaller screens show short (colour) sequences of the interviewees shortly after the talk in an infinite loop: they try not to move, which makes the sequences look more like statues or coloured versions of black and white photographs. *ad*

Info: "NEW POTT. 100 Lichter/100 Gesichter", Exhibition of the RUHR.2010-series "Mapping the Region" of the RUHR ART MUSEUMS, 28.10.2010-30.4.2011, Art collections of the RUB (Collection 'Moderne'); open: Tuesday-Friday 11-17 h, Saturday/Sunday and public holidays 11-18 h, entry free. There are regular guided tours as well as a supporting program with talks, seminars, publications etc. A catalogue has already been published (Published by Harald Welzer, Christoph Keller and Mischa Kuball); more at: <http://www.kusa-rub-moderne.de>.



The man behind the „100 Lichter, 100 Gesichter“: Mischa Kuball

HIGHER EDUCATION WITH IT

A RUB-delegation attends the EDUCAUSE 2010

RUB is member of EDUCAUSE for a couple of years. EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. This was our first trip to an EDUCAUSE conference. The theme of this year's meeting in Anaheim was „the best thinking in higher ED IT“. The size of the conference was impressive: 6700 colleagues from 41 countries from all over the world discussed in seven different tracks challenges and opportunities of IT alignment in higher education, for example Libraries, E-Research, and Digital Content or Teaching and Learning.

The type and extent of the environment with innovative IT-solutions in the field of "higher education" in the USA seem to be closely interlinked with the structure of the college system itself. Here the field of higher education commences with undergraduate studies, 2-year colleges which could rather be compared with the sixth grade, which is not considered to be higher education in Germany. The true academic education commences in the "4-year-colleges", which can generally be concluded with a B.A. or a B.Sc. The academic education can subsequently be continued with graduate studies in the graduate schools or professional schools at a university.

consequently utilised for the expansion of future-oriented IT.

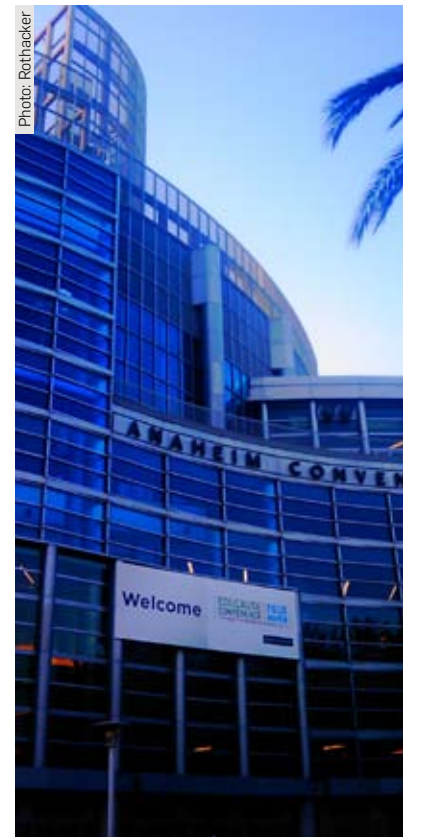
A report of the American Library Association introduced in the area libraries (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/value/futures2025.pdf>) illustrates 26 scenarios which could influence the development in the libraries within the next 15 years.

No reason to hide

Everyone particularly realised that IT takes on a key position in the area of "higher ED" in a time, where changes concerning all areas of social interaction occur at a never before experienced speed due to the information technology. The American colleges have faced this on an organisational level by appointing CIOs or Vice Presidents for Information technology. A session at the conference "The CIO: Plumber or Strategist" intensively discussed how these roles are to be realised. In summary it could be stated that the Ruhr Universität has no reason to hide in comparison with the large American colleges in IT matters. It provides interesting new approaches which provide food for thought, but the same also applies the other way round. *Marcus Klein, Martina Rothacker*

Trends from the USA

A large proportion of the colleges are privately funded, which operate completely according to economic rules. This creates competition, which has led to the establishment of relatively few elite colleges, which enjoy an excellent reputation. To the outside, this reputation is often projected onto the entire college environment in the USA, whereas the real standard is generally quite mixed. This discrepancy is also clearly reflected in the implementation of IT-strategies and new ideas at US colleges: while large private universities have the means to offer their blended and distance learning services in a consistent quality independent of location with the aid of mobile apps, smaller state-run colleges are just starting to introduce an identity management with considerable effort. Another trend is that basic services of the colleges for their students, such as email and collaboration services, are outsourced to external service providers. Offers from Google and Microsoft are predominately accepted in the USA, which are free of charge for universities. The resources which are freed up in this way are



The Conference Centre in Anaheim (California)

UAMR IN RUSSIA

Since March 2009 the Ruhr Universität, together with its partners of the University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr (UAMR), is now also present in Russia. With its own coordination office in Moscow emanating throughout all of Russia and the CIS-states UAMR shows its colours in a central partner country. The office is housed at the Russian-German Institute of the Moscow University for Transport (MIIT), which is one of the leading technical universities of Russia.

Central objectives and tasks of ConRuhrMoscow are: to position the Ruhrgebiet as an excellent research and study location within the Russian Federation and the CIS-states and to promote it further; to establish research contacts between the UAMR-Universities and Russian universities; to initiate and accompany joint study and tuition projects (e.g. study paths with dual graduation, student and lecturer exchange); to support the mobility between the two countries and thus contribute to the qualification of particularly gifted students and young scientists of east and west.

Several study path collaborations have already been set up, many tuition and research contacts established or furthered as well as a number of large seminars and summer schools initiated and accompanied since 2009. Several prominent publications in the Russian media as well as a monthly press bulletin in Russian regarding highlights of the UAMR significantly improve the visibility of UAMR in the Russian public.

ConRuhrMoscow is available to support all persons interested in collaboration, it organises contact and lecture tours, facilitates science contacts, offers support through infrastructure for lectures and events and accompanies innovative endeavours with the necessary expertise in Russia. *Klaus Waschik*

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