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 will feel the same.

People from over 125 countries study at the Ruhr-Universität and even the administration has employees from foreign countries. The 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 this area over the next few years. It is important that everyone can and should contribute to make cosmopolitanism beyond all national, cultural, ethnic or religious affiliation an integral basis 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 all members. From now on you will particularly find international topics, but sometimes also regular RUBENS articles, which will appear here again and 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 navigational systems on the campus will be expanded in this manner. This will take a little while and we welcome suggestions from our readers, Elmer 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 at the 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 researches – teachers and students. Preceding the strategy are the principles of internationalisation, meaning the 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 4300 foreign students want to graduate from RUB, approximately 2500 of those came to Germany specifically for their studies. Added to this are approximately 130 exchange students annually over 400 are completing study periods abroad every year. Approximately 600 foreign doctoral candidates are enrolled here and over 500 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 Metropolitan Ruhr” RUB is represented in New York and Moscow with its own service office, 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 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.

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.

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 few 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 him the first Western European to do so. Shukla was furthermore the first German to be appointed to 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 University 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. Therefore 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. It is thrilled to receive this honour. I am very grateful to Rector Woeler.

RUBENS: What exactly are your tasks?

Prof. Shukla: It will be my task to represent the university on an international level. I will myself as the ambassador of the Ruhr University. My main concern is to help the young generation to educate young scientists. I want to bring abroad 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 internationalize the university we need young scientists. They are the 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 on 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 viable. 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-Rectors for Research Prof. Ulf Eysel or Rector Prof. Elmar Weiler. We need many people like this at the Ruhr University. 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 like magnets, they attract each other. Scientists here have great opportunities to realize 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 do not 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 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.

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

RUBENS: You have a program of what I want to accomplish in one day and just work through it.

Prof. Shukla: Hard work is very important. Nothing comes from nothing. Self-motivation and people who can motivate us is an essential component. My personal secret recipe is positive thinking. People in Germany are often too pessimistic and then 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.

Prof. Shukla: One does not only 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 a first, 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 internationally, you still remain committed to national activities.

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.

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 access to all current offers and information at the exhibition booths of the universities in the exhibition. International institutions and public facilities such as the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) (German Academic Exchange Service) 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 AESC and JAESE as well as charitable organisations for the intercultural collaboration and private organisers of language travel.

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 current international business conduct during intensive training sessions. “Grenzenlos” is in new organised for the fifth time; it is a successful project of the Career Service and the International Office of the RUB. Torev Sitzmann

Info: Exhibition “Grenzenlos. Study and work abroad”, Thursday, 5th December 2010, 9.30 - 18.30 p.m. Audimax of the RUB. www.rub.de/grenzenlos

ABOUT US

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VITA

Padma Kant Shukla was born in Tulpur, India in 1950. He graduated at age 21 and went to the University of Umea (Sweden). In 1973 he came to the Ruhr and since then has worked at the faculty for physics and astrophysics. Shukla is a member of the Max-Planck-Institute for plasma physics and for extraterrestrial physics as well as honorary doctor of the TU Liubjana. 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 accomplished numerous advancements 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.
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 sharp-edged 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 attracts directly 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 programmes. An other 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 for medical students at the Nara University and the Hiroshima University in Japan.

Tailored program formats are designed and tested and corresponding services and ancillary offers are expanded at the RUB. The International Office (IO) advises in matters of support options and writes the programmes for the international students at all excursions for a research internship this year. In future this program is to be conducted with further partner universities in content with the entire University Alliance Metropol RUB (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 are a few quotes:

Keesi Adarkwa (Internship with Prof. Eckart Helfmann) “the knowledge and experience gained at RUB should prove useful this year, as my senior thesis centre on laser design and testing. In addition, I found my coworkers in my lab research group to 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 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 Hansom (Internship with Prof. Gunther Eggleston) “(...) 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 Hewett 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 experience 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 Sadegh). “(...) the building at Bochum University were designed to resemble ships, because the architect want 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 internats: backpacking, camping, day-long train rides across country, museums, performance, night fests, 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 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 recognised 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 Unterburger: “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 our stay were significantly less than I was used to form here. There are lots of short meetings with the lab and the steps for the next few days are discussed. Compared with my course in Bochum the group is small but very efficient. The mix between two Chinese Ladies, two Greeks and a few Americans and perfectly integrated – personally and scientifically. As a Großer Ausschuss I have completed 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 Schroll

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

FROM CANTERBURY TO RENTAL AGREEMENT

RUBiss is the first point of contact for international students

“Ah, excuse me, where can I find the bureau? And what is VSPL?” RUBiss is the best place to help with those questions. RUBiss, the International Student Service of the Ruhr-Universität is at the International Office of the University. RUBiss 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 Stücker, who represents the core of the RUBiss team together with Elena Diiz, Ulrike Herrlich and Burkhard Scheib. 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 Stücker. Less exciting but all the more important are exchange seminars at which many of whom speak very little German at the beginning of their studies at RUB, are the administrative items of the programme. “Openning 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 Stücker. The services are not just limited to the start of the studies, but are available throughout the entire semester. If 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 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 whole semester including the 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. The handbook provides insight into everything worth knowing about RUB and

RUBiss is the first point of contact for international students
The ‘Moderne’ collection of the RUB presents a portrait series

100 LIGHTS FOR 2010

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 primarily came from Spain. As is common for her parents, she had her heart set on studying Roman studies, but it is here in Bochum, so Yu– Jin Lee was brought to the Ruhrgebiet by her parents. Originally from South Korea, she studied in this process is the lamp he brought.

The exhibition

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 Pot, 100 Licht–er/100 Gesichter” (“new pot, 100 lights/100 faces”). It is a part of the cultural capital project RUHR KUNST MUSEUM (RUHR ART MUSEUMS).

100 large-size portraits have been exhibi–
ted in the art collections since the end of
October. They show 100 people connect–ed with RUB, among others current and former students and lecturers. Every one of the 100 has his/her roots in another

A large proportion of the colleges are

Trends from the USA

A report of the American Library As-
sociation introduced in the area libraries
(http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/ issues/value/future2010.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 “high-

RUHR KUNST MUSEUM (RUHR ART MUSEUMS),

the sixth grade, which is not consid-

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