

RuhrFAN

ConRuhr Newsletter for Ruhr Friends and Alumni

» Fall 2006

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Director's Corner

Dear Friends and Alumni of the Ruhr Area,

I am delighted to send you our network's second newsletter today. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for your interest in the first issue. We are thrilled about the many visitors to our website (www.conruhr.org) – and especially about the many positive comments from our readers.

The second issue comes with many changes. In addition to reports from research and teaching at the universities, we will update you on the latest news in the areas of business and culture. This should give you an overview of the plethora of activities from essential aspects of life in the Ruhr Area, many of which not only affect but sometimes even support each other across genres. We are proud to be able to bring you this synthesis and would especially like to express our gratitude to the *Initiativkreis Ruhrgebiet* for their support. The *Initiativkreis Ruhrgebiet* (www.i-r.de) is made up of representatives from leading enterprises and public life and has been lending new impulses to the development of the Ruhr Area since 1989. Like the ConRuhr office in New York, the *Initiativkreis* strives to be an ambassador of the Ruhr Area, and we look forward to further synergies.

We hope that you enjoy this enrichment. We would also like to hear from you to get to know you and learn about your experiences in the Ruhr Area. Whenever you happen to be in Manhattan, feel free to come by. You are welcome to visit us any time!

We would be especially pleased if you are able to participate in the first annual meeting of the RuhrFANs – these are the members of the Ruhr Friends and Alumni Network. We are planning to have the meeting on the evening of December 15th in Manhattan; more information will be available soon.



Of course, we are always interested in tracking down new RuhrFANs in the USA. If you know anyone who comes from the Ruhr Area, studied there, or has worked in the Ruhr Area in any way in science, academics, business or culture, then invite him or her to register on our website. We are excited about each new FAN.

In the hopes of getting the chance to know you better in the future,
mit einem herzlichen Glückauf,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Rolf Kinne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rolf Kinne
Director ConRuhr
Academic Exchange Office for the Universities of the Ruhr Area
Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen

The International Ruhr Area

Conference of ConRuhr Universities in New York City

German and American science journalists came together in October for the *Atlantic Transfer Conference on Science Journalism*. Upon invitation by ConRuhr top media experts from *The New York Times*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Der Spiegel*, *Scientific American*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, *Nova TV* and *WDR* gathered together to discuss new issues on science reporting.

“Science writers are like sports writers – they ask for the key players and the latest results,” said John Rennie, Editor in Chief of *Scientific American*. “The speed of science is incredible and forces the journalists to run just to stay in the same place...”

The spectrum of talks during this one-day conference covered everything from the ethics of personalization in reporting to the influence of politics on scientific reporting. Thomas Hallet from WDR TV noted, “Politicians need science journalism ... as an early warning system.” He used the coverage on the bird flu in Germany as an example. The University of

Dortmund’s Science Journalism program was represented in New York by Holger Wormer. His reminder for the reader: “Scientific reports can only shed light small slices of the issue at hand. The reader has to keep this in mind and should never read something without a critical eye.”



ConRuhr guests in New York: Abraham van Veen, James Cornell, John Rennie, Holger Wormer, Rolf Kinne, Thomas Hallet, Alison Abbot, Ellen Ruppel-Shell, Melanie Wallace, Robert Irion, Katja Thimm, Stephen Simpson, Volker Stollorz (from left)
Photo: Dino Trescher, Constart

Among the approximate 70 audience members were representatives from Columbia University, New York University, the newspapers *Business Week* and *United Nations Chronicle* and the Bertelsmann Foundation. During a parallel exhibition participants took the opportunity to gather information about courses of study and research activities available in the Ruhr Area.

This conference was the second part of the Atlantic-Transfer series, which brings together experts from Germany and the USA.

» www.conruhr.org/page/ruhfrfriends_newsletters

North American Interns in the Ruhr Area

During the past year, 28 American & Canadian scholarship recipients were able to come to the Ruhr Area through DAAD’s RISE Program. At a reception in Bochum the 28 students gathered together to share their experiences and enjoy a night of cultural activities, supported by the *Initiativkreis Ruhrgebiet*.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) uses the RISE program – Research Internships in Science and Engineering – to foster student exchanges between North America and Germany in the fields of natural and engineering science. The RISE scholars spent almost three months researching together with German PhD students. In a cooperative initiative, the Universities of Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg-Essen provided the DAAD with 42 research opportunities in the Ruhr Area, 13% of all positions offered in Germany. The DAAD is now accepting applications for next year’s RISE program, until February 1, 2007. The universities and the *Initiativkreis Ruhrgebiet* are also currently recruiting partners for the planned program ‘RISE Professional’, which provides American & Canadian students with internship positions in local businesses.

» www.daad.de

News from Teaching and Research

Tuition Fees: 500 Euro Per Semester

The Universities of Dortmund, Bochum and Duisburg-Essen have decided to introduce tuition fees starting in summer 2007.

All registered students will have to pay 500 Euro per semester to study in the Ruhr area. These fees support the enhancement of teaching and study conditions. Tuition fees can be waived or delayed under some conditions, for example if a student has children under age 18, is handicapped, or becomes ill during the study period.

Krupp Foundation Promotes Future Professors

The Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation has announced that they will once again award one million Euro to young professors in the natural and engineering sciences.

The Essen-based Foundation has been granting the annual 'Alfried Krupp Award' for young teachers in higher education since 1986. Young teachers who, have not yet been given a full professorship can apply for the award. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2007; teachers must be nominated by a second party.

» www.krupp-stiftung.de

Dortmund's 'SPRING' program gets top award

The master degree program Regional Planning in Developing Countries (SPRING) at the University of Dortmund made it into the top ten international master programs.

The ranking was established by the Endowment Foundation for German Science and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The jury, which was made up of 13 specialists, was particularly looking for a high-quality curriculum with a strong international orientation. In addition to the award of 20,000 Euro, the Dortmund program will also receive the title *TOP 10 International Master's Degree Courses made in Germany*. The awards ceremony will be held on December 1 in the House of German Business in Berlin.

Mercator Foundation Sponsors the NRW School of Governance

Starting at the end of the year, the Essen-based Mercator Foundation will dedicate one million Euro to enhance the 'NRW School of Governance', an innovation center created by the Institute for Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The NRW School of Governance is the organizational superstructure for the master degree program at the University of Duisburg-Essen's Institute for Political Science. The program teaches scholars key skills for responsibly carrying out occupations in politics, associations, businesses or administration. It serves as a training center for scholarly excellence and provides creates a specialized network within North Rhine-Westphalia. With the help of the money from the Mercator Foundation, an alternating Mercator Foundation guest professorship will also be created for the next five years.

University of Bochum Wins the Excellence Initiative

The Ruhr University of Bochum (RUB) struck gold in the federal and state excellence initiative with its concept for a campus-wide graduate school. In the future, scholars from almost all faculties at the Ruhr University Research School will be able to work together and supervise PhD students on an interdisciplinary level.

German federal and state governments will help sponsor 40 graduate schools in the next years through their excellence initiative. RUB was among the 20 winners chosen in October convincing the jury of international specialists from the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the *Wissenschaftsrat* (Science Advisory Board) with its concept for a campus-wide research school.

More than 70 scholars will cross disciplines and work together in the Bochum graduate school – from the natural and engineering sciences to the life sciences to the humanities and social sciences. Graduate students will each receive individual training programs consisting of specialized and interdisciplinary courses, as well as applied soft-skill qualifications within their field. The program will be hosted under the umbrella of RUB's International Doctorate Program, who will coordinate the activities and advisement of foreign PhD students.

Ruhr Science Atlas Published

The Ruhr Area's scholarly potential has now been documented in the Ruhr Science Atlas. It introduces the variety of universities, institutes and research establishments in the Ruhr Area.

Survey maps and diagrams illustrate the capabilities of the Ruhr's scientific landscape. For example, the reader learns that more than 10,000 scholars carry out research in the Ruhr metropolis, and annually 10,000 graduates from 500 degree programs leave the universities. The atlas sheds light on the network of locations for scholarly advancement as well as the training and research capabilities in different areas of focus, for example in Industrial Technologies and New Materials, Energy, Logistics and Transportation, as well as IT and Life Sciences. The Ruhr Science Atlas was published by the four university cities of Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg and Essen.



» <http://www.uni-dortmund.de>

Campus Life along the Ruhr

Rowing World Cup in Eton: Four Medals for Ruhr Students

Gold for the German eight rowing team – five students from Bochum and Dortmund won the World Championships title. After an eleven-year break, the German Rowing Association's head boat finally became world champion again in the title bouts in the English city of Eton at the end of August.

Two students from the Ruhr University of Bochum (Bernd Heidicker and Stephan Koltzku) and three students from the University of Dortmund (Philipp Stüer, Jan Tebrügge and Ulf Siemes) sat in Germany's eight man team. Further support from Dortmund was provided by Nadine Schmutzler in the silver medal winning boat for the women's eight. Students from Bochum also took other medals: Jan Martin Bröer won the gold medal in the quadruple with coxswain and Filip Adamski won the silver medal in the quadruple coxless. In the final race Jochen Urban from Bochum and Andreas Penkner from Dortmund took fifth place in the double coxless. The athletes have already started to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Games in Peking.

Business News

Ruhr Businesses Experience Growth

The businesses in the Ruhr Area are experiencing an economic revival. Compared to other parts of the state, businesses have a more optimistic outlook, survey says.

Every third entrepreneur in the Ruhr Area assesses the business situation as good; only every tenth complains about bad business. This is the result of the autumn survey of 1100 businesses by the region's Chambers of Commerce. At the start of the year, business people were notably more pessimistic, the report claims. The Ruhr economy has grown strongly in the past months and the economic revival has meanwhile spread to all major economic fields.

A business survey by the German Small Business Association confirms this positive economic trend along the Ruhr: the entrepreneurs here look towards the future much more positively than those in other parts of North Rhine-Westphalia. Of the surveyed companies, 42% predict even more improvement in their own business situations by the end of the year. In the regions Rhineland and Westphalia, only 35 and 36% respectively shares the same optimism. The positive commercial atmosphere in the Ruhr Area can also be observed in the other data from the business survey: 30% of the businesses in the Ruhr Area expect to increase their capital expenditure in the next twelve months and one-third is planning to create new jobs within this year.

Ruhr Area Chemistry Atlas Now Online

The Ruhr Area presents itself as a prime location for chemistry in a central internet portal.

The online site includes information about locations and their potential, businesses and chemistry parks, research and development. In addition to numbers and facts, the portal also provides maps and diagrams to serve as an interactive service tool for businesses in the chemistry industry. The Chemistry Atlas was created by the ChemSite-Initiative, the county of Recklinghausen and the WiN Emscher-Lippe GmbH. Financial support was provided by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the EU within the framework of the WiN Emscher-Lippe GmbH's project "Kompetenzfeld Chemie".

» www.chemieatlas.de

Application Center for Nanotech Information Systems in Dortmund

Under the name “Adlantis”, one of only six centers nationwide for the advancement of nanotech information systems is founded in Dortmund.

Nanotech information systems combine developments in computer science, biotechnology and nanotechnology by bringing together developments and structures from these fields into new systems. The fields of application are, among others, food control and inspection and early detection of infarcts and cancer. The goal of the Dortmund application center is to promote the transfer of nanotech information systems from the research labs and into the economy. The Federal Ministry of Economics will provide up to five million Euros for the development of the center and a first series of cooperative development projects with industrial partners. The main focus of the work will be in the fields of biomedical sciences and safety engineering.

» www.adlantis-dortmund.de

Cooperation between Heart-treatment Centers in Essen and Saint Augustine

The West German Heart Center in Essen and the German Children’s Heart Center in Saint Augustine have founded the first university-based “Reference Center for Congenital Heart and Vascular Disease” in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The establishment of the reference center should help fill the current medical gap. The success rate among patients with congenital heart defects meanwhile is so high that these patients will most likely reach adulthood. On the other hand, these patients are then too old for the specialized pediatric cardiology, and most cardiologists for adults are not specialized in congenital heart defects. The new foundation will close this gap. In the new reference center specialists from both participating clinics will consult each other about the best therapeutic options. There are approximately 200,000 to 300,000 patients with congenital heart defects in Germany alone.

Culturescape Ruhr

More than 78,000 Visitors to the RuhrTriennale

Over 78,000 visitors came to the more than 100 events of the 8-week theater festival, held in unique industrial settings. More than 5,000 children participated in the second semester of the children’s theatre academy.

At the heart of the RuhrTriennale were the genre-transcending *Kreationen*, which – similar to most of the music theater, literature and concert evenings – were productions made especially for the RuhrTriennale and carried out in the former industrial buildings and factories in Bochum, Duisburg, Gladbeck and Essen.

Peter Zadek’s work exhibition with *Peer Gynt* and *Hamlet* turned out to be an overwhelming theater experience. The audience in Bochum honored this legendary Ruhr artist with standing ovations. David Byrne from New York had a similar success. The singer of the legendary band *Talking Heads* opened the festival on August 19 along with the Duisburg Philharmonic and provided a further magical moment in the *Century of Song* concert series. The ‘JungeTriennale’ was also a great success. This series actively introduced the festival to children and young students from throughout NRW. More than 5,000 children listened to talks and visited interactive pieces within the framework of the second semester of the children’s theater academy and a photography contest.

The program for the next festival in September/October 2007 will focus on the mind and spirit of the Middle Ages.

New Travel Guide: Three Days in the Ruhr Metropolis

A city guide for business and short trips in the Ruhr area has been released in English and German. It gives an overview of the most important sights, best restaurants and the most beautiful areas in the Ruhr metropolis.

The tour suggestions in the guide book range from the great churches of Dortmund to the German Mining Museum in Bochum to the World Heritage Site *Zollverein* in Essen. The 64-page book also contains information about the Ruhr Area's culture, history, structural changes and character. The travel guide is supplemented with practical information about public transportation, museums and excursions. The book is available from the *Regionalverband Ruhr* (Ruhr Regional Association).

» www.rvr-online.de

Only two Months: Already 10,000 Visitors

The Tibet exhibit in Essen's Villa Hügel has already announced its 100,000th visitor just two months after the opening.

"Tibet – Cloisters Open their Treasure Chambers" is the first large exhibit of its sort in Europe. It presents approximately 150 pieces – from religious works of art from the treasure chambers of Tibetan cloisters to paintings to altar pieces. The exhibit follows the tradition of other large cultural-historical exhibits that have been shown in the Villa Hügel in Essen – the spectacular earlier residence of the industrial family Krupp. The exhibit will remain in Essen until November 26.

» www.villahuegel.de

Announcements

Atlantic Transfer Conference Science into Industry

The third conference in the series of Atlantic Transfer Conferences will take place in Chicago in November. The topic: Knowledge Transfer from Society to Industry - How (and why) to Foster Entrepreneurship

The German Universities of Applied Sciences and the Brandenburg Liaison Office for Academic Affairs, together with the ConRuhr and Hessen Universities Consortium, welcome you to attend our conference in Chicago, November 16th until the 17th. Academics and industry experts will gather together at the Illinois Institute of Technology to discuss the transfer of technology from science and research into start-ups and existing businesses.

The series of Atlantic Transfer Conferences is a cooperation between the four New York based academic liaison offices and an initiative for German and American cooperation. The main topic of the conferences is the transfer of knowledge between universities and society, across both sides of the Atlantic.

» www.atlantic-transfer.org

Mark the Date: First Annual Ruhr Friends and Alumni Reception

The first annual reception of the Ruhr Friends and alumni network will take place on December 15, 2006, in New York City. The event will include a dinner reception and lecture series. Please mark the date in your calendar – we look forward to seeing you there. Further information about the event will be sent to you soon.

» www.conruhr.org

Imprint

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