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UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Journal

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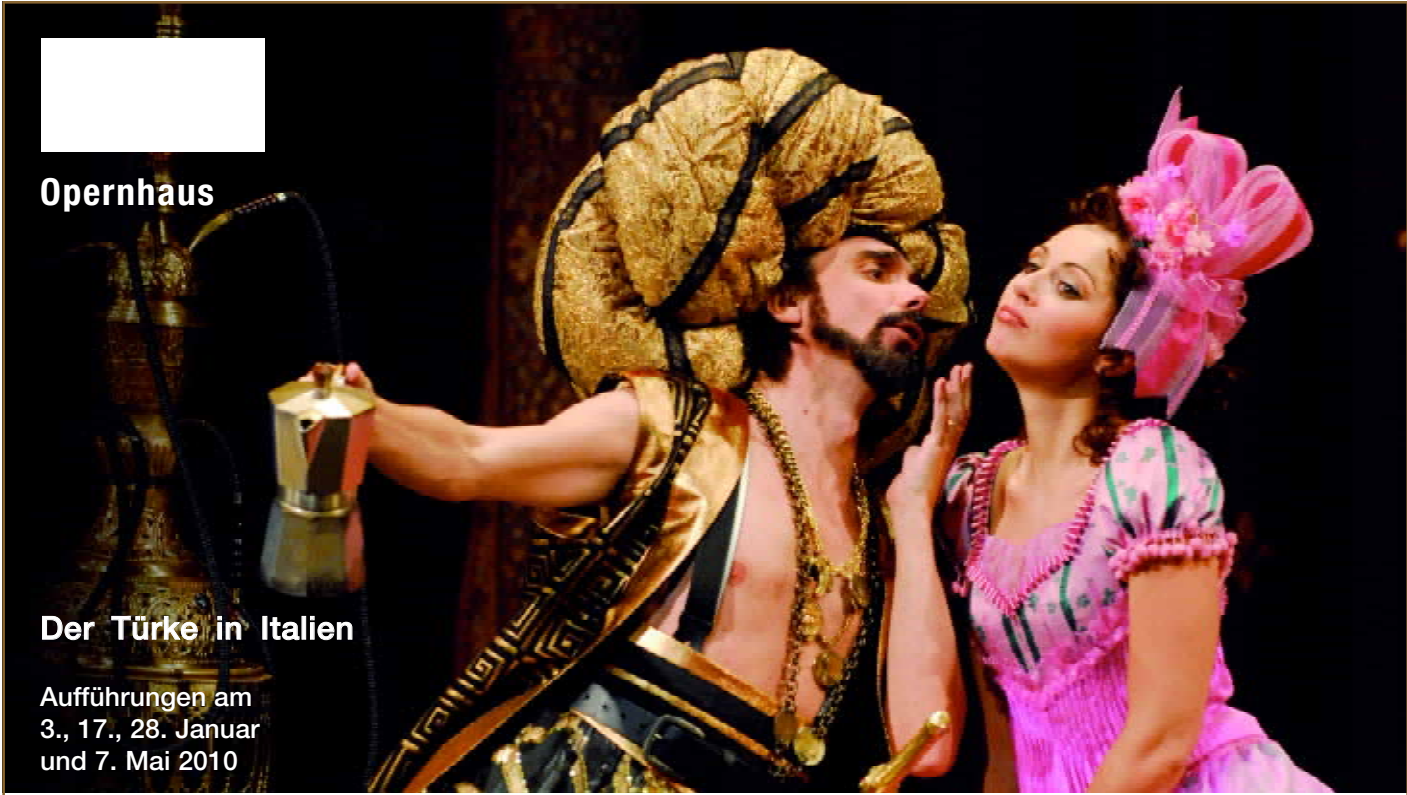


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What was, is and is to come





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Dear
readers,

the last issue of the Uni-Journal traditionally looks back on the year. This time it has been a very special year, which was, thanks to the dedication of innumerable people both within the university and outside it, a great success. With more than 300 events, the Alma mater Lipsiensis has proven, 600 years after its foundation, to be a scientific force to be reckoned with among the ranks of the great German universities – and has established itself at a European level. A solid foundation that now has to be built on.

The diversity of the highlights in the anniversary year ranged from congresses and scientific symposia, to concerts and exhibitions – to review them all would exceed the scope of this publication. And individual highlights have also certainly emerged on this year's balance sheet, as extensive as the range of events has been since the splendid opening concert in May: The innovative congresses brought renowned researchers to Leipzig. The 300-kilometre run from our parent university in Prague to Leipzig tested the participants to the limits of their fitness and was a symbol of friendship between peoples. The anniversary exhibition, »The Enlightenment of the World. Saxonia and the roots of modern science«, elicited positively euphoric reviews in the national media. We should also not forget the long list of publications dedicated to the anniversary from a wide variety of different perspectives, focusing on the university as a whole or its separate parts. And so on.

The history of Germany's second-oldest university in terms of uninterrupted teaching was omnipresent in 2009 and was even immortalised on coins, medals and a stamp. However, there can be no celebrations without glancing back at the courageous graduates and scholars of the year 1409 who dared, in protest, to turn their backs on the Charles University and start all over again in Leipzig. We owe them our gratitude for the beginnings. However, tradition is not about preserving the ashes, but carrying the flame forward! The elation over what has been achieved should not detract from the fact that the University of Leipzig – like all of the country's universities – is called upon to make both courses of study and teaching fit for the future. Only in this way, can Leipzig maintain its position as an attractive place to study – and even attract school-leavers from western Germany to the »far east«, in particularly large numbers in this academic year.

Wishing you enjoyable reading

Tobias D. Höhn



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UniVerse

The new students have arrived: beginning student life with a solemn **matriculation celebration** in the Gewandhaus. **4**

Winner of the Litt prize advocates practically-orientated teaching, linking vibrancy with a solid foundation. **5**

Picador Professor **Olen Steinhauer** collaborates with students to write a story. **6**

Alma mater Lipsiensis achieves **good marks for internationality** in a study by the German Academic Exchange Service. **7**

Enthusiastic bibliophiles »In Pursuit of Knowledge« with treasures from the University Library, even in the New York Grolier Club. **8**

Anniversary 2009

Ceremonial act with Federal President Horst Köhler was **the climax of the anniversary year.** **10**

Minister Schorlemer testifies to the »substantial importance« the University of Leipzig has as a **»driving force for the sciences«** **12**



Papyrus in New York

Opening speakers on September 9th in New York: Eric Holzenberg and William Helfand (director and president, Grolier Club), Ulrich Johannes Schneider (curator, Leipzig University Library), Horst Freitag (consul general, New York) and Christoph Wolff (Bach Archive, Leipzig and Harvard University)

8





Photo: Stephan Flad

Matriculation Celebration

Around 1,500 first-semester students took up the invitation to the matriculation celebration in the city Gewandhaus, where they heard, among others, the university orchestra conducted by David Timm, the university's musical director. Rector Franz Hauser assured the students that their decision to commence their studies was certainly the right one. A good education was the best qualification for a good job.



Photo: Tom Schulze

Enlightened

The anniversary exhibition »Enlightenment of the World« in which this vacuum pump from the year 1709 was also to be seen, triggered numerous press reports on the anniversary.

16

Rector Franz Häuser draws a **satisfied conclusion.** **14**

The way the others saw it – how the anniversary was reflected in the press. **16**

Jens Blecher, director of the University Archive, a **much sought after man** – who by no means gave everything away. **18**

Ecumenical service, a **contemplative start** to the anniversary month of December. **20**

Fundraising 2009 – the administrative office makes a positive appraisal and hopes for a continuation of the excellent relations. **21**

Books, books and more books – even including a rare gift from the Latvian University of Riga. **22**

OLEC programme proves: 600 years of the University of Leipzig matters **all the way to Ohio.** **24**

The university thanks – all sponsors, donors and partners. **28**

The many faces of the university **15**
Personalia **25/26/27**
In brief **25, 26**

The new students are here!

Ceremonial matriculation in the Gewandhaus

The rush to enrol at the Alma mater did not wane this year either. More than 26,000 people had applied for a place to study at Germany's second-oldest university. At the beginning of the winter semester 2009/10, the university welcomed 4,663 »new« students, who were commencing a degree for the first time in their lives (first-time students in winter semester 2008/09: 4,245). 6,763 students enrolled in their first semester of their chosen course for the winter semester, around 1,300 more than in the previous year. This figure includes students doing Masters degrees, for example.

The first few days of the winter semester do not only consist of pub crawls with student representative council members and library tours, but also the annual matriculation celebration. In a packed Gewandhaus, Rector Prof Dr Franz Häuser welcomed the members of the 600th entry class. The University of Leipzig Choir, the University Orchestra and the University Big Band provided the musical program, under the direction of the university's music director, David Timm.

In his address, Prof Häuser emphasised that despite all the hurdles and challenges, a university degree is still the best guarantee of a good job. In this respect, he did not fail to mention the problems with the implementation of the Bologna Process. Where problems remained, the higher education reform would have to be reformed. The student representatives (StuRa) also addressed the gathering and, in accordance with tradition, added some rhetorical spice to the celebrations. The new representatives, Bastian Lindert, Simon Schultz von Dratzig and Ulrike Nack, addressed the first-semester students with the energetic call for them to get actively involved in making sure their needs are met. Lindert highlighted the following: »Things can only change where students open their mouths.« Keynote speaker Dr Jörg Junhold, director of the Leipzig Zoo, exhibited a somewhat milder tone: »Has it really been that long?« he asked aloud. He matriculated in 1985, in the »deepest GDR,« with all its restrictions on freedom. Today, free thought and free opinion are enshrined in the constitution. Addressing the first-semester students, he said: »Cherish this precious democratic commodity.«



The highlight of the academic celebration was the award of three prizes. The Wolfgang Natonek Prize (2,500 euros) of the Association of Supporters and Friends of the University of Leipzig was shared in equal parts by students Gerald Eisenblätter and Thomas Seifert, for their dedication to student self-administration. Prof Thomas Lenk, professor of economics in the Economics Faculty and director of the Centre for International Economics of the University of Leipzig, was honoured with the Theodor Litt Prize. Prof Lenk tested modern teaching methods, including simulations and e-learning, in his classes. The prize of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for foreign students went to Walid Abd El Gawad, a doctoral candidate born in Cairo. He is working, together with others, on an audio book of the Koran, and represents Leipzig's Muslims in inter-religious dialogue with the City and the University on a voluntary basis.

Caroline Kieke

The university has 28,596 students in 141 courses. There are particularly high numbers of first-time students in Teaching (polyvalent Bachelor, a combined degree course), English Studies (BA), Chemistry (BA), History (BA), Sports Science (BA), Economics (BA) and Law (State examination) degrees. Of the 6,763 students enrolled for their first semester in their chosen area of study, 3,693 are undertaking a bachelor's degree, and 1,218 a master's degree. 723 of these students come from foreign countries, while 680 come from West Germany (previous year: 428).



The Practice of Engaging Teaching

Prof Thomas Lenk receives the 2009 Theodor Litt Prize

Each year, the Association of Supporters and Friends of the University of Leipzig honours those university teachers whose dedication to teaching at the Alma mater is of particular excellence, with the Theodor Litt Prize.

In the anniversary year of 2009, Prof Thomas Lenk, director of the Institute for Public Finances and Public Management, has been awarded this honour. The finance expert, who is also the director of the Centre for International Economics at the University of Leipzig, is being honoured in particular for his authentic, appealing and innovative teaching. The jury, comprising members of the Association and other university teachers, furthermore emphasised the excellence and practical orientation of the research of the university teacher.

»Practical teaching that combines vigour with a solid technical foundation is close to my heart, and to that of my team. I am pleased that this has been recognised today with this special honour,« Professor Lenk said following the award ceremony. »In addition, it should be an obligation incumbent upon every professor to convey the relevant knowledge. At the end of the semester, students have the »incumbent obligation« in examinations. Together with my fantastic team, I try to make the course content as palatable as possible. At the same time, similar to an Amuse Gueule, a lecture can only excite the senses in preparation for the main course. Generally, this must be consumed in the form of independent study. We are also experimenting with various forms of teaching, in order to convey the

subject matter as effectively as possible.« Rector Prof Franz Häuser, too, referred to the pioneering spirit of the award winner in his laudation during the matriculation ceremony, and highlighted the great popularity and exemplary practical orientation of Professor Lenk's courses, and of the Leipzig Economy and Practice seminar, co-organised by the prize-winner.

Against the background of a broad debate in a globalised academic landscape, high-quality teaching is for him both a task and a challenge, according to finance expert Prof Dr Lenk. In his courses, Professor Lenk tries to convey not only the necessary specialist knowledge, but also the analytical and methodical skills indispensable for the development of an independent scientific standpoint, and own initiative. Accordingly, the jury had emphasised his use of modern methods and formats including simulations, excursions and thematic workshops, as well as an appealing online learning programme.

In the course of the prize ceremony, tribute was paid to the outstanding dedication of Professor Lenk over many years, both inside and outside the university, as well as his enormous commitment to the needs of students of the economics faculty and the Alma mater Lipsiensis. The 2009 award winner stands for vigorous and practice-oriented teaching, as a supporting pillar of university life, and thus follows in the best tradition of the prize's namesake and former rector of the University of Leipzig, Theodor Litt.

Red



Collaborative Leipzig

I've moved around a bit, and it seems to me that geography is largely in our heads. Some cities I love, others I don't, but it never has a thing to do with that city's objective virtues. This subjectivity doesn't bother me, because I'm a novelist. Novels are not travel guides.

Now, I find myself in Leipzig as a Picador Guest Professor. For personal reasons – primarily, a baby daughter who keeps catching fever – I've yet to get to know the city. I only know what I've seen walking to and from the university, and what others tell me. I can see that it's a large, vibrant, remarkably clean city, yet I'm told that Leipzig worries others will see it as a small one. I like that contradiction.

The city, though, isn't why I'm here. I've moved my family eight hours north to try something I've never tried before: teach.

I'm running a seminar on the spy novel and a writing class called The Collaborative Novel. People inevitably ask about the writing class. It's an experiment in every sense of the word, the brainchild of a friend, the novelist David Liss. It is what its



Olen Steinhauer.

name suggests: The students, together, write a single novel.

The structure is simple. We discuss the opening of our story, voting when disagreements arise. We do not outline, because I don't outline. We don't create character sketches, because I don't do that. We do it as I do it – we simply sit down and write.

At the end of each class, three students are chosen to write three chapters, based on our ideas. Those chapters are due by Sunday. On Tuesday we critique the chapters, discuss the next steps in the story, and assign new chapters.

This is how it works in theory, but reality is cruel. For example, since each class is only an hour and a half – not the three hours I remember from my grad school days – we spend the entire class critiquing the previous chapters. We have never had time to argue over next-chapter ideas. Which means that the students assigned to write always head out blind.

Okay – the truth is that my fine structure is crumbling fast. Yet this doesn't feel wrong. It's novel writing – not, say, guide-book writing. A little chaos fuels the creative engine.



Top Rankings for the University

The German Academic Exchange Service, in conjunction with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the German Rectors' Conference, commissioned a study which examined the level of internationality of German tertiary education institutions. Overall, the university performed well within the group of 23 German universities with more than 20,000 students.

Four first places were achieved for advice and support services offered for German and foreign students, doctoral candidates and researchers, as well as for foreign public relations work. The university came in second for the ERASMUS lecturer exchange program, while the utilisation of the European mobility program ERASMUS at Leipzig University also secured top placings. The comprehensive range of internationally oriented courses in Leipzig was grounds for a sixth place. Certainly, various circumstances are the foundation of this gratifying result. The efficient division of work between central protagonists and dedicated scientists and academics in the faculty, however, was arguably a decisive factor.

However, there is no light without shadows. Primarily, these shadows are cast over the graduation rate. Although the basis of the calculation may be questionable, the problem, that foreign students have more substantial difficulty in completing their degree or dissertation within the regular period of study than their German classmates cannot be simply rationalised away. Faculties should be put in a position to be able to remove the inequalities with which graduates of foreign education systems commence their academic career at German Universities, by way of propaedeutic seminars, especially at the commencement of their studies. As soon as the graduation rate becomes decisive for the allocation of funds as part of target agreements, it is especially important for faculties to receive support in this worthwhile task.

The »profile data« study is designed as a long-term study, to measure and compare developments in the area of internationalisation. The University of Leipzig has a good ranking to defend in the increasing competition of German Universities, and a number of tasks yet to master.

Anne Vorpapel and Svend Poller

With a hint of a sneer, some doubters ask, »But how can this succeed?« A work of art – painting, novel, poem, film – functions because a single mind guides it with a unified vision of the world. With twelve students from a variety of backgrounds, unity is rare.

Still, we try. We're in this together now. They are enthusiastic and spirited in their disagreements. The pages multiply as they fight for their ideas. Already, this amorphous story means something to them. It's magical to watch.

This is how I'm starting to see Leipzig. Not only as a place where I can share the wonder of an art form to which I've devoted my life – and this is no insignificant thing – but as a version of our collaborative novel. What is Leipzig, if not a work of art shaped daily by people with little in common? Yet see how well it functions – form and content in perfect balance.

»It can work,« I tell the doubters. »Just look around.«

Olen Steinhauer

Extended version www.uni-leipzig.de/journal/2009/steinhauer.html

Success in New York

How can you measure the success of an exhibition? What sort of public interest do the valuable treasures of the Leipzig University Library deserve, which were on display in New York's Grolier Club from September through November? Are we to believe the president of the Grolier Club, William Helfand, when he says that this was the most beautiful and magnificent exhibition ever displayed in the 125-year-old institution? Should delighted visitors be decisive? Visitors including publisher and billionaire Cy Newhouse, vice-president of Sotheby's, David N. Redden, and German consul general, Dr Horst Freitag?

It is primarily book lovers who emerge to inspect the treasures of Leipzig at the bibliophiles' address in 60th St, corner Park Avenue. Upon entering the rather nondescript building on 60th St, you quite quickly arrive in a large hall with a gallery, which contains ten wall cabinets on ground level. They house the treasures of the Bibliotheca Albertina: individual display cabinets for the Codex Sinaiticus, the Ebers Papyrus, the Machsor Lipsiae and the Mongolian Koran, and display cabinets with several exhibits for the fields of botany, astronomy, America and Europe, just to name a few.

The exhibition, prepared by Stefan Höhne (design) and Jörg Graf (conservation), was praised highly by colleagues in New York libraries, archives and museums. The exhibition received substantial support from DHL, Dow Chemical and the German Federal Foreign Office, as well as a number of private donors.

An evening lecture by Pamela Smith (Columbia University) in New York, organised by the German Historical Institute (based in Washington), was also on the programme. In addition, the Grolier Club used the exhibition space for a series of social events. Prof Ulrich Johannes Schneider himself was able to make a speech the exhibition at the reception of the German Ambassador in Washington, and at a gala dinner of the German-American Heritage Foundation. In each case he combined it with thanks to Margrit B. Krewson, the former employee of the Library of Congress who first suggested the idea of the exhibition in New York, and who since then has rendered a substantial contribution to its realisation. This thanks was also expressed in a report by the MDR for *Sachspiegel Extra*, filmed in New York.

The conclusion of the New York presentation was celebrated on November 21, followed by guided tours and a reception; the manuscripts have now been returned, safe and sound, to storage in Beethovenstrasse. The Leipzig University Library now also offers a multimedia presentation in the Houston Public Library of the material in this show, without the originals, which was opened on November 17 by Leipzig's Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung, and which can still be viewed until the beginning of January 2010.

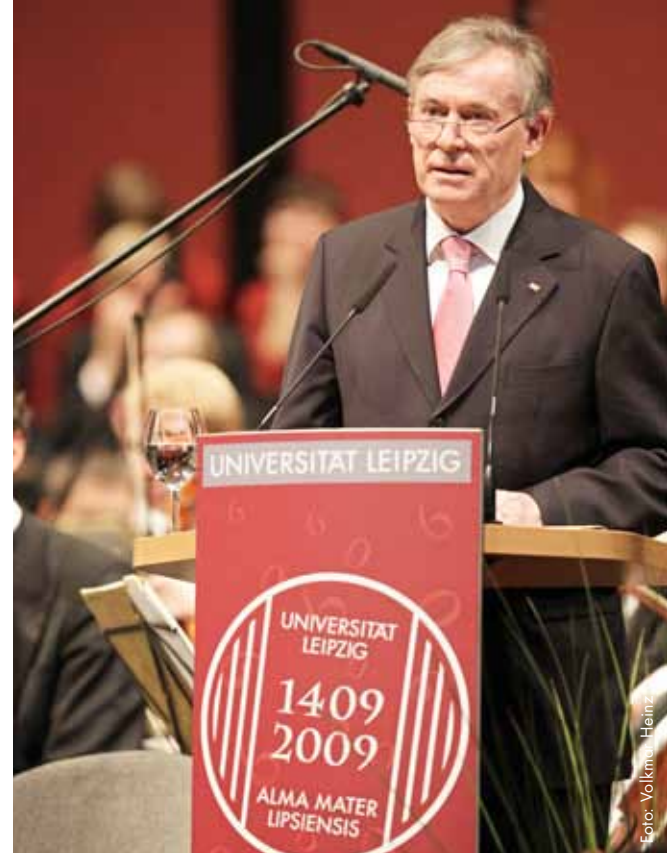
Catalogues of the exhibition, in both German and English, are available in the book shops and in the Bibliotheca Albertina. www.inpursuitofknowledge.org



Ulrich Johannes Schneider (ed.)

In Pursuit of Knowledge 600 Years of Leipzig University





»What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals!«

from: Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2, William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

left: The Paulinum was for the first time used during the ceremony on the anniversary.
top right: Federal President Horst Köhler during his speech at the Paulinum.
bottom right: In the evening of December 2 a jazz concert took place at the Paulinum.

The litmus test for higher education in Germany

Bologna is an important theme at the ceremony on the occasion of the 600 anniversary – moved by the atmosphere of the Paulinum

The 800 guests were obviously moved and speechless as they entered the Paulinum on 2 December in order to take part in the ceremony to mark the 600 anniversary of the foundation of the University of Leipzig. As they entered the Paulinum, the rectors and professors from both German and foreign universities, the guests of honour from politics, science, culture and commerce, the professors, the staff and the students all became part of a historic moment. 41 years after its barbaric destruction, the vibrant strains of an organ rang out in the reconstruction of the university church St Pauli together with a message with signal effect for the German system of university education.

»Here in the Paulinum, as in higher education as a whole, there is still a lot that has to be constructed and altered«, the German Federal President Horst Köhler said. In the light of excessively long periods of study, too many drop-outs, poor studying conditions, not enough provision for support and too little equality of chances, he believes there is only one solution: the consistent implementation of the Bologna reform. »The question, how to develop our universities further, is also the litmus test for how seriously we take our objective: preparing our country for the future.« President Köhler used plain language to lament the chronic underfunding of the German university sector that has prevailed for years, and to call for more money for the »major-theme of education«.

The Minister President of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich, took the opportunity to reiterate his opposition to student fees, and Rector Prof Dr Häuser focused in his speech on the restructuring of the study courses. The Bologna Process had started to

founder, even before the decisive frontier could come into sight, Prof Häuser asserted, with reference to the university's motto »a tradition of surpassing frontiers«. In the meantime, the Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung praised the university, for »defining the spirit of our city, lending impulses to our economy and advancing the international renown of our city.« The spokesman for the Student Association, Simon Schultz from Dratzig, picked out the central theme of historiography and lamented that the university had failed to make the most of the opportunity for a critical confrontation with its own history, particularly at the time of the Nazi regime and during the GDR period.

600 years provide plenty of opportunities for praise and criticism. However, what remains is the memory of a monumental event in the history of the university. That includes the poignant premier of »Memoriam - Tempo e temp« especially composed by Bernd Franke for choir and orchestra, based on texts from the literature professor, Hans-Ulrich Treichel and William Shakespeare. In the evening, Franke's Werk, conducted by the university music director David Timm, reverberates once more. Later, jazz is played while around 1000 people have gathered in the neighbouring lecture theatre and refectory for the university festival. With the rector's dinner in Auerbachs Keller the previous evening – with guests from 17 different countries – a fitting conclusion to the anniversary. And an incentive to take up the challenges we are facing. President Köhler had good reason to quote Thomas Mann's Buddenbrooks: »Celebrating the past is decorous, if you are optimistic about present and future.«

Tobias D. Höhn

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Interview with Minister for Science and Arts Prof Dr Sabine Freifrau von Schorlemer

On September 30, Prof Dr Sabine Freifrau von Schorlemer was appointed to the position of Saxony's State Minister for Science and the Arts. The international law specialist is an elected member of the German UNESCO Commission, and has been an advisor to the German Foreign Office on United Nations policy for many years. In this journal, she talks about higher education legislation, tuition fees and the anniversary of the Alma mater Lipsiensis.

Minister: until now you were teaching at the TU Dresden while living in Leipzig, and as such you know both of these university cities quite well. What do you see as their similarities and differences? Where do the strengths and weaknesses of the University of Leipzig lie?

It is difficult to make a comparison. Each city, and each university, really does have its own character! The University of Leipzig is the oldest university in Saxony, and has proven its substantial importance over the centuries as a driving force for the sciences.

Another hot topic is the perennial issue of the higher education legislation. Should we expect the reform to be reformed?

The new higher education legislation has been in place for less than a year. For a start, we will examine the impact very closely. It will not be a matter of unravelling the legislation completely, but rather of making a small amendment, primarily to ensure the individual responsibility of the higher education institutions. We need an attractive general framework, a lively intellectual climate, more freedom and a reduction in bureaucracy.

How is the excellence you proclaim economically viable without tuition fees?

Excellence is also possible in the public education system, and not just where fees are required. An absence of fees is one

element in the provision of attractive conditions for studying. Moreover, it is a social issue. The accessibility of the education system must be independent of the financial status of parents.

To what extent do the focal points of your previous work aid you in your portfolio?

Due to my advisory work for the German Foreign Office, the Development and Peace Foundation and other international bodies, I have been working close to politics for many years. In addition, I have an interdisciplinary approach, which amounts to bringing together various specialist fields and perspectives with my international experience, for example in contractual negotiations for the Federal Government.

In a national comparison, where should Saxony stand in terms of higher education at the end of the legislative period?

Excellence in higher education facilities has little to do with legislative periods. We have to set the right course today to give Saxony's higher education institutions the chance to perform well in a national comparison. I am committed to ensuring that Saxony's higher education facilities are financed at a high level.

We need an attractive general framework, a lively intellectual climate, more freedom and a reduction in bureaucracy.

The University of Leipzig is celebrating its 600th anniversary this year. Your own personal congratulations to the Alma mater?

I wish the university successful and satisfied graduates who look back on their studies at the Alma mater with pleasure, and who feel well-prepared for the commencement of their career.

Interview: Tobias D. Höhn



Foto: Jan Weitz

Interview with Prof Dr Franz Häuser

Your magnificence, what was, for you, the climax of the anniversary year 2009, which certainly wasn't short of highlights?

Naturally the ceremony in the Paulinum, with many illustrious guests from Germany and abroad, and with the Federal President as the representative of our State. The opening concert to commence the anniversary, where the Rector of Prague University honoured us with his presence, was striking. I would also like to mention the run from Prague to Leipzig. Here, the collaboration with Charles' University, the dedication of the participants on both sides and the high level of emotional commitment appealed to me. Our central conventions with renowned experts, from home and abroad, were also fascinating.

Besides the strengthening of the relationship to the mother university in Prague, has the anniversary opened up other networks, which may now be expanded?

Yes, I think that our scientists have taken the opportunity to engage in deep conversations with the colleagues they invited from abroad in order to intensify relationships. Without this

sort of direct contacts, cooperation at a university level doesn't occur.

The year 2009 was predominately concerned with looking back, but there was also time to look forward. Where will the university be at its anniversary in 2059? How must the university develop, in order to remain competitive?

I would find that question easier to answer if I had a crystal ball. The university can only develop from what has already been created today, that is, research in distinguished fields, promoting young academics, primarily from the Research Academy, and in teaching through an optimisation of the Bologna Process.

How would you evaluate the current situation in the context of higher education policy? Can you understand students who are currently also protesting at the University of Leipzig?

The Bologna Process cannot be implemented to a high standard with the resources available for the previous degree



THE MANY FACES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Nikolaus Krell (1550/53-1601)

Nikolaus Krell can be considered one of the most famous graduates of the University of Leipzig in the 16th century, and simultaneously one of the most contentious. As a Privy Councillor and Chancellor, he strived to set a new course in Church politics for the Electorate of Saxony, and reformed the imperial policy in the influential territory. Krell's confession policies were a particularly controversial subject of debate among his contemporaries, and placed the Chancellor in opposition to the powerful estates and to the clergy: the commonly accepted interpretation of these policies as a move towards »Calvinism«, however, is somewhat questionable. Rather, they can be seen more as a rejection of orthodox Lutheranism.

Krell's father, Wolfgang, was a professor of the Leipzig Law Faculty. His mother came from a wealthy Leipzig bourgeois family, which lead the numerous biographers of the Chancellor to assume that in later political decisions, Krell was also an advocate of the interests of the »modern« Leipzig middle classes as opposed to the »backward« nobility. What is certain is that Krell, after attending the Fürstenschule in Grimma, studied jurisprudence in his home city from 1571, before soon setting off to western Europe on extended study tours, and acquired his doctorate in the French city of Valence.

The jurist's political career began in 1580, with an appointment as a councillor at the Court in Dresden. When Christian I came to power (1586-1591), Krell prevailed in the internal competition for influence on state affairs, and became Chancellor in 1589. He consistently took advantage of the Prince-electors' trust,



took on important authority himself, and monopolised access to the sovereign. In this position he contributed to making the regulations of the University of Leipzig of 1588, among other things. It has been speculated that Krell's own (and, accordingly, negative) experiences as a student led to an unprecedented intervention in the university: in 1588, all professors of the Leipzig Law Faculty were dismissed, and replaced by new appointees.

Upon the premature death of the Prince-electors in 1591, the Chancellor lost his political backing. He was arrested at the behest of the estate nobility, ultimately sentenced to death in a procedure which attracted the attention of the entire empire, and hanged in Dresden in 1601. The far-reaching changes in the politics of the Church and the Empire implemented in Krell's period of office had already been reversed by this point. *Sebastian Kusche MA, Commission for University History*

courses, especially not if universities are required to guarantee the enrolment numbers of the year 2005, that is, prior to the introduction of the bachelor degrees in winter semester 2006/2007. In this respect, it is above all the politicians who must act.

Only very few rectors have been granted the opportunity of experiencing and contributing to such an anniversary celebration. Please tell us your most personal moment in the university anniversary year 2009?

It may come as a surprise, but I was personally immensely relieved when the opening concert began on May 9.

The planning and preparation was finally over, and the anniversary actually commenced.

The way the others saw it...



There were a lot of them: Articles on the anniversary in magazines and newspapers, reports on radio and television, and websites. Too numerous, in fact, to count them all; too numerous to quote them all. Naturally, the Alma mater Lipsiensis always holds a special place in the reporting of the local media. The **Leipziger Volkszeitung** proved once again to be a friendly, if by no means uncritical, companion in the anniversary year. The LVZ was mediapartner as well as the **Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk** (MDR).

Looking back, of course, it is primarily the national media that one scours eagerly to find out how, and with what content, one is considered there. The anniversary exhibition, »Enlightenment of the World« was taken as an occasion to report many times over. »Leipzig... was a trade centre and university city at the same time, and not merely a centre for exhibitions, but also a theatre and music capital. As such, theology, philosophy, jurisprudence and medicine had powerful rivals here. As the musicians they became, Christian Gottlieb Nefe and Johann Friedrich Reichardt, were able to look back on their time as law students in Leipzig, while in the case of Christian Felix Weiße, who was enrolled in philosophy and theology from 1745 to 1750, studies overlapped with an obsession with theatre. He rendered homage to it together with his friend Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, who he later lost as a friend,« according to the **Süddeutsche Zeitung**.

In **Freies Wort**, Frank Hommel looked at the history of the Alma mater: »According to Daniel Kehlmann, we have Hum-

boldt and Gauß to thank for measuring the world. For no less than the »enlightenment of the world,« we have Leipzig to thank. That is what the great exhibition for the 600th anniversary of the University of Leipzig has to teach us. Modesty is a thing of the past. The University of Leipzig is the second oldest in Germany, however this title is not completely without flaws. When students and professors came to Saxony from Prague in 1409 due to the discrimination in the latter city, numerous universities had already been founded in the region we today call Germany: Heidelberg (1386), Cologne (1388), Erfurt (1392) and Würzburg (1402). Of these, however, only Heidelberg held its ground through the turmoil of history. The other three were closed for a while, due to a lack of funds, the reformation and the Napoleonic wars. They were later founded afresh. For this reason, Leipzig today comes after Heidelberg in the list.«

Roland Mischke wrote in the **Wiener Zeitung**: »In its 600th year since founding, Leipzig rightfully claims its time-honoured university to be the capital of the German enlightenment. In the exhibition in the Altes Rathaus, around 700 exhibits and diverse narrative threads document the breakthrough of the enlightenment. It was the path to the development of the modern sciences, and these were the basis of a modern society.« Other reports on the exhibition were published in the **Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten**, **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**, **Die Welt**, **Ostthüringer Zeitung** and the **Mitteldeutsche Zeitung**. **Deutschlandfunk** and **Deutschlandradio Kultur** also reported on the exhibition, as did the large news agencies.



Photos: Jan Woitas

And yet it was not only the exhibition that found a place in the reports, but also the special stamp issued by the German mail service, Deutsche Post. Not everyone was able to offer a regional connection like the **Schwäbische Tagblatt**, which proclaimed the following under the headline, »Stamp of Approval«: »Mössingen woman designs commemorative special stamp with a record number of prints.« The article continued: »It was released on July 2: The 55 cent stamp – created by Mössingen designer Nadine Nill for the 600th birthday of the University of Leipzig. With a record number of prints: 309 million.« Specialist magazines such as **postfrisch** and the **Presse-Numismatik** also embraced the stamp and the specially minted coin.

The **MDR** celebrated the anniversary with numerous broadcasts on radio and TV, special programmes included the 45 minute long documentary »Karzer, Campus, Koryphäen« by Saskia Barthel and Matthias Koch.

The fact that students and teachers took on an especially athletic challenge was duly illustrated. »The history run,« was the headline for the report in the **Prager Zeitung**, and it was revealed to readers that: »For the 600th anniversary of the Decree of Kuttenberg, students and professors will run from Prague to Leipzig.« A summary followed: »I would like to wish the runners luck – in surviving the run.' With these words Václav Hampl, rector of the Charles University of Prague, jokingly bid farewell to the 32 students and lecturers who left Prague last Wednesday at the beginning of a 300 km run to Leipzig. The five-day endurance test is one of the highlights of

the 600th anniversary of the University of Leipzig, and pays homage to the founding of the Saxon university in 1409.« The run was also duly noted by others, including the **Welt** and the **Sächsische Zeitung**.

In addition to the reports on the anniversary celebrations, the sporting and cultural highlights, and the academic and scientific conferences which drew hundreds of scientists and academics from all over the world to Leipzig, the ongoing development of the university was not forgotten. The **Berliner Kurier**, for example, approached the topic as follows: »The campus on Augustusplatz will also undergo comprehensive changes by way of the architectural redesign, is to be integrated into the cityscape. An eye-catching complex of buildings with sharp outlines and subtle colours will be erected on around 35,000 m² of ground area. It will blend in perfectly in the city landscape so typical to Leipzig, with its passageways and gates. The conditions for students in Leipzig are ideal. The infrastructure is incomparable. The city has more than 50 museums, the libraries have more than 5 million volumes and 9,000 current journals, and the city on the stream has a music scene that cannot be beaten.«

Some others meant especially well: »This year, Leipzig will celebrate the 900th anniversary of its Alma mater,« wrote Joachim Güntner on February 27, in the **Neue Zürcher Zeitung**. The additional 300 years would mean that the University of Leipzig would be older than the University of Cambridge. And that would be taking things a little too far.

Jörg Aberger



Photo: Jan Woitas

Anniversary celebrations make archive director a highly sought-after man

Dr Jens Blecher looks behind the events of the day, and wants to help the university archive to flourish at an international standard



sonal records of Werner Heisenberg, who was appointed as a professor of the University of Leipzig in 1927 at the age of just twenty-six, and who is known in particular for the establishment of quantum theory here, remain.

The expanse of the archive contains handwritten manuscripts by Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as 8mm films and photos from the GDR era, memos and minutes of meetings – basically, everything that has anything to do with the history of Germany’s second oldest university. »The anniversary celebrations have renewed our impetus,« says Blecher, who was recently elected to the board of the Association of German Archivists. »Media reports have attracted the attention of many people from all parts of the Republic, who have sent us enormous amounts of things they had inherited from their mothers, fathers and ancestors and that they found in the attic, or in the cellar.« It remains to be seen whether treasures will be found among the anecdotal student memories – even if it may take a while. It is little wonder, as the archive receives more than 15,000 emails containing research requests each year. Even other countries are rediscovering the history of Leipzig. For which even Dr Blecher’s own postdoctoral qualification must wait.

For 2010, Dr Blecher is concentrating on the long-awaited relocation of the archive; the search for a building close to the university is underway. »The University Archive has been on the run since 1968, when our repository building was lost with the demolition of the St Pauli university church. At first, the Albertina was the home of the archive, and when construction was commenced there, they moved to the current building.« Dr Blecher wants to really expand the user services at a new location – he considers the American principle of »easygoing« service especially important. »An archive has to be able to work in this way outwardly, and that is possible in Leipzig, too. Historical communication is the right term for it«

At the same time, Dr Blecher is establishing contacts in other countries, including to colleagues at Charles University, Prague, and in Sarajevo. In spring, the German Studies Faculty of the Bosnian university is to receive a treasure trove of books, which is currently stored in Leipzig: the private library of the former Leipzig German Studies professor Walter Dietze, with around 6,500 volumes of mostly classical German poetry and fiction. Dr Blecher is currently working especially hard on a European archive association of the oldest traditional universities. The network is to span Coimbra, Bologna and Vienna, to Prague and Krakow – with Leipzig as the point of intersection.

For the archivist, time is, therefore, a scarce commodity. This year, Dr Blecher wants to produce a second edition of the Leipzig matriculation register, is writing a large contribution to the five-volume history of the university, and was involved with The Addresses of the Rectors of the University of Leipzig, and the recently published illustrated volume of around 420 portraits of professors. Dr Blecher explains his verve quite simply: »In the University Archive, everyone is pulling together and in the same direction – after all, you only experience an anniversary like this once in a lifetime.«

Tobias D Höhn

»The archive is the revenge of journalists on politics.« This sentence, attributed to Austrian television journalist Robert Hochner, brings a smile to the face of Dr Jens Blecher, who has been the presiding director of the University of Leipzig Archive since April. Around 6,000 metres of shelving are home to certificates, files, seals and museum items from six centuries of university history in the facilities in Oststrasse, where the archive has been housed since 1998 and which reached the limits of its capacity long ago. The collection also includes explosive material such as the academic records of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, leader of the left-wing party, »die Linke«, Lothar Bisky and politician Cornelia Pieper, of the liberal FDP. »In politically turbulent times in particular, media requests for documents of well-known people increase,« Dr Blecher says. And yet, as tempting as the short-term media fame may be, Dr Blecher and his four archivists are bound by privacy laws. The personal files remain closed to third parties for the lifetime of the subjects.

Dr Blecher, born in 1965 in Sondershausen (Thuringia), much prefers to talk about past centuries anyway – a topic that has made him a highly sought-after interviewee and researcher in recent months. »Which other university archive can claim to possess a cross-section of material, from the reformer Martin Luther – he preached in the university church, St. Pauli, in 1545 – through to Nobel Prize winner Werner Heisenberg?« Dr Blecher asks – rhetorically, of course. Numerous official and per-

Heavenly words from above

Ecumenical service in St Thomas Church for the anniversary

On 2 December 1409, the charter of the University of Leipzig was signed in the refectory of the St Thomas Monastery and the first rector was elected. The birth of the institution was to take place to the »glory of God the almighty, the holy virgin Mary and all the heavenly hosts«. Thus, faith and the university were destined to go hand in hand with each other from the beginning. The first faculty was dedicated to theology, university services were a regular part of daily life and the lawyers' disputations were held in St Thomas Church – faith was omnipresent.

Six hundred years later, the tradition was to be continued with an ecumenical service as a reminder of the birth of the university, on the eve of the 600 anniversary of its foundation. This service was not only intended to be a reminder of that date in December 1409, but also of »all those who have stood up for the freedom of spirit and faith« Rector Prof Dr Franz Hauser emphasised. The Lutheran Bishop of Saxony, Jochen Bohl, continued the theme of freedom of thought in his sermon. It was a great good that was to be defended. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten how important it was not to regard rationality and faith separately. The close interconnection of the Church and the university should not be reduced to forgotten traditions, but should, rather, be put into practice.



Foto: Jan Woites

Grand words did not only come from the pulpit on this evening, but also from the gallery. The Leipzig St Thomas Boys Choir, directed by the St Thomas cantor, Prof Georg Christoph Biller, provided the musical accompaniment and charged the well-filled place of worship with strains of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

Afterwards, the congregation was blessed and dismissed by the Lutheran Bishop of Saxony Jochen Bohl and the Roman Catholic Bishop Joachim Reinelt of Dresden-Meissen. A double blessing that heralded the climax of the anniversary.

Friederike Ebeling



Fundraising for 2009 – Summary

More than 300 anniversary projects were conducted in the 600th anniversary year, which emphasised the academic standards of the Alma mater Lipsiensis, but which also required substantial financial means. For this reason, a comprehensive and sustainable fundraising concept was developed early which, as can be seen at the conclusion of the anniversary year, was implemented with success.

The university recognised the enormous significance and opportunity represented by this momentous event from the very beginning, and regarded the development and establishment of a long-term fundraising strategy as part of the overall anniversary plans and promoted it as such. The idea was to use the growing attention of the public as the anniversary year progressed to initiate long-term collaborations with key figures in various fields of society. Various models were developed in this regard, which enabled both representatives of commerce and interested individuals to become involved in the anniversary of the university, and to support the Alma mater even beyond the anniversary year. Forms of support ranged from the symbolic purchase of a seat in the Paulinum on Augustusplatz, to sponsor of one of the 300 anniversary projects, to taking on a room sponsorship in the new seminar building. The fundraising committee was set up within the 2009 administration office with two employees, who coordinate all aspects of the implementation of the concept.



It is now worth taking stock of what has been achieved. After extensive research, potential supporters were contacted by the 2009 administration office, and provided with information regarding projects that seemed to be suitable, in order to unite the commitment of people outside the university with anniversary projects. In 55 per cent of cases where contact was established, a potential supporter became an actual supporter.

Here, it is important to note the wide commitment in all classes of society. The university received support from companies and foundations, from former students and professors, from private individuals from Leipzig and throughout Germany, and from representatives of local authorities, the Federal State and the National Government. In concrete terms, the support of three main sponsors, more than 60 project sponsors and numerous donors and friends was obtained, as well as several anniversary partners who supported the festival year with their services.

Overall, the university has to date received financial contributions to a value of more than 2.3 million euros. »We are especially pleased that the majority of supporters are also interested in collaborating with the university beyond the anniversary year,« emphasised Christina Barofke, head of Geschäftsstelle 2009. »Now we have to develop ideas for this future cooperation together, so that the benefits of the anniversary are felt well beyond the year 2009.«

Sandra Schmidt



Foto: Tobias D. Höhn

In their new book *Alumni und ihren Exlibris* («*Alumni and their Bookplates*»), published by Vieweg+Teubner, Anne (centre) and Kirsten (second from left) Büsing look at former students and teachers of the university, and the often artistically designed labels they used to mark books as their property. The users and their bookplates are presented extensively in words

and pictures. Accompanied by publishing department head Ewald Schmitt (right), the authors presented Rector Franz Häuser with a number of copies for the university library, reinforcing with their work the ranks of the books published on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the Alma mater Lipsiensis. (ISBN 978- 3-8348-0859-2)

The President of the Federal Administrative Court of Germany, Marion Eckertz-Höfer (left), and the Attorney General of Germany, Professor Monika Harms (right), were among the numerous guests Rector Franz Häuser and the Law Faculty were able to welcome to a ceremony in the Alten Handelsbörse (Old Stock Exchange). The occasion was the presentation of the »*Festschrift of the Law Faculty on the Occasion of the 600th Anniversary of the University of Leipzig*«. The 710-page volume, published by Berlin publishing house Duncker & Humblot (ISBN 978-3-428-13148-8), was edited by members of the Law Faculty. The celebratory address, with the title »*A Festschrift as a Reflection of the Jurisprudence*«, was held by Prof Dr Dr hc mult Peter Häberle. Prior to that, Dean Prof Dr Christian Berger welcomed the guests, and Prof Dr Christoph Degenhardt introduced the festschrift.



Foto: Hendrik Schmidt

Dr Zanda Rubene, professor of general education at the University of Latvia, Dr Aida Kruze, professor of history/education at the University of Latvia, and Alida Zigmunde, leading researcher for higher education at the University of Riga, enter their names in the university's visitors' book, after presenting Prof Franz Häuser with the book *Riga-Leipzig-Riga. Their Relations in Education and Scholarship* (ISBN 978-9984-46-091-8). The book portrays the almost 300 years of continuous co-operation between the Leipzig and Riga universities. According to the University Archive, the last such gift from another higher education institution to the Alma mater Lipsiensis was in 1909, on the occasion of the latter's 500th anniversary.



Foto: Anja Jungnickel



The fifth volume of the history of the University of Leipzig, »Geschichte der Universität Leipzig 1409-2009«, published by the university in the Leipziger Universitätsverlag, (796 pages, hard-cover, 84.00 euros, ISBN 978-3-86583-305-01) is dedicated to the structural and spatial development of the University of Leipzig from its foundation in 1409 up to the present day. The book reconstructs and presents the variety of building work at the university in Leipzig both in the past and today, focusing on the structural and functional history of the buildings and complexes in relation to urban development in Leipzig, as well as the appreciation of these constructions in terms of the history of art and architecture.

Leipzig Universitys 600th Anniversary: What it means to OU students

Professors at Ohio University who prepared the 2009 academic program of study for the Ohio Leipzig European Center (OLEC) knew it had to be very special. They also knew that the Ohio students selected for the program had to be special. With these two assumptions in mind, the planners all of whom had taught in the OLEC program during the past decade decided to put the focus of the 2009 program directly on Leipzig itself. Thus was born »Leipzig: Crucible of Revolution«, the 2009 OLEC program of study.

As the name suggests, the program of study was organized around the framework of Leipzig itself how it was at the center of many dramatic and important changes throughout history. Prof Robert Stewart of Ohio Universitys journalism school focused on the impact on the media of two important geopolitical changes – the 30 Years War as well as during the period of the Peaceful Revolution in the late 1980s. Four other OU professors each focused on their areas of special study, again, with Leipzig or the surrounding region serving as the center of attention.

The 2009 OLEC program was then offered to honors students at Ohio University as a special 600th Anniversary Edition. It attracted excellent students, while also drawing attention to Leipzig Universitys anniversary as well as to the city and entire region. Students who participated in the ten-week program returned to Athens, Ohio singing the praises of all that Leipzig has to offer. They, along with the professors from Ohio who teach in the OLEC program, understand more than ever the importance of a global and historical perspective.•

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IN BRIEF

Prof Dr Stefan Berger of the Institute for Analytical Chemistry, and **Prof Dr Dieter Sicker** of the Institute for Organic Chemistry, are this year's winners of the Chemical Industry Fund Literature Prize. They received the prize, endowed with 10,000 euros, for their book *Classics in Spectroscopy*.

At the 6th annual conference of the »German Society for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (DGKL)«, DGKL president Prof Dr Karl Lackner recognised two junior scientists of the Institute for Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics for their outstanding presentations and scientific work. **Dipl biochem Ronny Baber** received the »Research Poster Award,« endowed with 300 euros, while **Dr Lesca Holdt MD** received the renowned »Abstract Prize,« to the value of 1,000 euros, for the best lecture.

The council of the Mathematics and Informatics Faculty elected **Prof Dr Gerik Scheuermann** to the position of dean, and **Prof Dr Jürgen Stückrat** to the position of vice-dean.

The director of the University Library, **Prof Dr Ulrich Johannes Schneider**, was presented with the knight's insignia for art and literature by the head of the Institut français d'Allemagne, the counsellor of embassy for culture, education and university education, Charles Malinas.

Liturgical studies expert Prof Peter Cornehl awarded honorary doctorate



Foto: Milo Keprenová

»He is regarded as one of the leading liturgical studies experts in Germany. His coherent analyses contain reflections on his own experiences. And his work reveals what practical theology really is.« No, not words from the Holy Scripture. Words, rather, which were spoken in October of this year, in the Alte Senatssaal (Old Senate Hall) of the University of Leipzig. They were referring to Professor of Theology Peter Cornehl, who received an honorary doctorate from the theological faculty.

Prof Cornehl held the chair for practical theology, specialising in homiletics and liturgics, in the Department of Evangelical Theology of the University of Hamburg, from 1976 to 2000. In addition to his university teaching and research, Prof Cornehl was involved in key ecclesiastical committees. What must be high-

lighted, however, is Prof Cornehl's initiative in founding the Liturgical Studies Institute of the United Protestant-Lutheran Church in Germany at the Leipzig theological faculty.

On this day, with a calm and assured voice, Prof Cornehl read his lecture on the topic of: »Public liturgy? Twenty years after the peaceful revolution.« In his lecture, Cornehl reflected on past, with a view to the present. He advocated university liturgy, and services with interactive participation of the congregation. That is, for and by the general public.

Cornehl himself, however, spoke rather modestly: »I haven't yet come a long way towards achieving what I wanted to achieve, and what I have promised. But I accept the distinction as an honor to complete my work.«

Friederike Ebeling



A Passion for Economics

On 26 October Prof Dr Ullrich Heilemann, director of the Institute for Empirical Research in Economics and holder of the chair of the same name in the economics faculty, celebrated his 65th birthday. Prof Dr Heilemann has always seen the task of an economist as the practical application of economic theory and empirical insight in the interests of all people. Intervening in economic policy, without prematurely taking sides, for him goes without saying. His diverse interactions with the media are – as the term suggests – for Prof Dr Heilemann merely a means to an end: Creating a critical, competent and informed public which the democratically legitimised economic policy and its representatives have to face up to. Prof Dr Heilemann dedicated his enormous academic productivity, which has taken the form of approx. 250 academic publications, to this task.

Prof Dr Heilemann's effort to put research to the service of society is

also evident in his involvement with the academic advisory councils of the State Office of Statistics of the Free State of Saxony, the Federal Office of Statistics and the Office of Statistics of the European Union (CEIES). He was the initiator of the recently signed cooperation agreement between the University of Leipzig and the State Office of Statistics. With the summer school on the topic of »Working with Macroeconometric Models,« held annually since 2005, he promotes the diffusion of academic knowledge within society, with growing resonance. The summer school is the continuation of a project that began a quarter of a century earlier, elsewhere. The Leipzig-born Heilemann was an extraordinary professor at the University of Munster (WWU), held the economics chair at the Gerhard Mercator University of Duisburg, specialising in empirical economic research, and was for many years a researcher at the Rhine-Westphalian Institute for Economic Research in Essen – ultimately in the role of vice-president – before being appointed to Leipzig in April, 2004.

Ullrich Heilemann's academic work is aided by a far-reaching international network, and by his capacity to critically challenge the limits and possibilities of his own discipline without blinkers. A recurring theme in numerous works is the accuracy of economic forecasting. This topic was also the subject of a conference, attended by esteemed international experts, that Prof Dr Heilemann organised together with the International Journal of Forecasting in 2005 in Leipzig, with the title: »The Future of Macroeconomic Forecasting.« Just a few weeks ago he was in China as a visiting professor – continuing an old tradition of the econometric craft, which has always understood the unity of theory, empiricism and practice as an international task.

The Institute for Empirical Research in Economics and the economics faculty thank Prof Dr Heilemann for his commitment, and wish him good health and the creative strength to continue his work.

*Prof J. Ringel / Prof R. Schuhr / Lecturer
Dr G. Quaas*

The following were appointed to the selection committee of the German Academic Exchange Service as assessors for four years: **Dr Olaf Bärenfänger** (German as a second language), **Prof Dr Christian Fandrych** (linguistics of German as a second language), **Prof Dr Crister S. Garrett** (international studies), **PD Dr Sybille Große** (romance studies), **Prof Dr Evamarie Hey-Hawkins** (inorganic chemistry) **Prof Dr Wolfgang Höpken** (Eastern and South-Eastern European history), **Prof Dr Justus Meyer** (legal science), **Prof Dr Christoph Schneider** (organic chemistry) and **Prof Dr Erwin Tschirner** (German as a second language).

Andrew Bagley, graduate of the University of Miami – School of Law, has been working at the chair of Prof Dr Christian Enders at the Law Faculty since September, as a recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He is conducting research in the field of comparative studies concerning the development and application of anti-terrorist legislation and legislation relating to foreign nationals, with regard to the threat posed by Islamic extremism in Germany and the USA.

Prof Dr Andreas Dietz of the Clinic and Polyclinic for Ear, Nose and Throat Medicine/Plastic Surgery has been named an honorary member of the Indian »Foundation for Head and Neck Oncology – India«. »This is a special distinction, in so far as head and throat tumours are the most frequent cancer entities in male Indians,« Prof Dr Dietz explained. With a population of one billion, this group is relatively large and recognised.

Obituary for Prof Renate Drucker

On 23/10/2009, Renate Drucker passed away in a Leipzig hospital, after a short period of severe illness.

Prof Drucker was born the youngest daughter of lawyer and notary Martin Drucker in Leipzig in July of 1917. After completing secondary school, she commenced a degree-course at the University of Leipzig in 1936. As a »second-degree half-caste« she was issued with an indefinite ban on studying at the University of Leipzig in April 1938. Renate Drucker was unemployed, and a future in Germany was barely imaginable. Against all hope, however, she was accepted for enrolment at the University of Leipzig in 1941, and was permitted to attend seminars once more. She switched the focus of her studies and concentrated on historical science and medieval Latin. A doctorate was not possible in Leipzig, so she went to Strasbourg, where she received her doctoral cap in 1945.



Prof Drucker was active in teaching from 1946 onwards, and in 1950 took on the war-damaged university archive, of which she was head until 1977.

She was not able to leave teaching alone, however: working with students seemed to be her elixir of life. In 1970 she was appointed associate professor, and continued to hold seminars through to the early 1990s.

Following the dissolution of the GDR, Prof Drucker repeatedly devoted her efforts to the advancement of the University of Leipzig. In July, 1997 the Academic

Senate honoured her with nomination as the first honorary citizen of the University of Leipzig.

In all aspects of her life, Renate Drucker maintained a bright, friendly manner, which she combined with great intelligence and comprehensive knowledge. With her death, the university, as a body, is losing not only an honorary citizen, but also part of its human soul.

*Dr Jens Blecher,
Director University
of Leipzig Archive*

On the death of Wolfram Herold

Unexpectedly for us, PD Dr Wolfram Herold passed away, in October.

We mourn a sincere, honest and companionable colleague. Dr Herold had an ability to overcome critical situations with wit and humour. Polite, ever helpful and always approachable, Dr Herold acquired much esteem and substantial trust from his colleagues.

As a young assistant, Dr Herold already had the opportunity to travel to Hungary on a work placement exchange program with a group of students. In the following years, he continued to look after this trainee exchange program, worked in the International Student Exchange Commission in the field of medicine, and even successfully learned to speak Hungarian. After the »Comrade« chairman of the commission relocated

his residence to West Germany, Wolfgang Herold continued to lead the commission for many years even as a »non-Comrade«. In the scope of his activities as a research associate at the Institute of Medical Physics and Biophysics, and even more beyond these activities, Wolfgang Herold always felt an affinity with foreign students, and considered himself to be someone they could genuinely rely on for help and support. The special seminars offered by Dr Herold helped some of these students to close many a gap in their knowledge. He served them with personal commitment, never shirked effort, helped them to overcome critical situations and stood up for them. He considered himself a confidant of these young people, some of whom needed his help. Dr Herold was appointed foreign student support officer for the university, filling that role for many years until his retirement due to old age, in addition to his research work at the institute, for the benefit of foreign enrolled students.

Dr Herold was always there for his students with every fibre of his being. Even outside official meeting times in his office, no student was ever turned away – they always found him, either there, in the Institute or at home. He was a good listener, he knew the solutions to many problems, and he knew the important people and authorities which he could apply pressure to for the benefit of his charges. He helped out with his own money on more than one occasion, when all other options appeared to have been exhausted.

Dr Herold remained in contact with many former students, even after they returned to their home countries; he was invited to see them, and they visited him in Leipzig, when possible.

Those who knew him will always remember him. Those who shared the good times and bad with him every day in the workplace will mourn him.

*Prof F. Pliquet on behalf of all colleagues
of the deceased*