



Contents

Greetings

Overview of the
Anniversary Year

Der lebendige Geist



The charter of the University
(replica)

Imprint

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Dear Members of the University,
Dear Friends and Alumni of our Alma Mater,

On 26 June 2011 Heidelberg University will be celebrating its 625th anniversary. The Rectorate has decided to give appropriate emphasis to the academic year in which this anniversary falls (23 October 2010 to 22 October 2011). Germany's oldest university will also mark this outstanding date in its history with a week of festivities taking place from 25 June to 3 July 2011. Rector Professor Dr. Bernhard Eitel has entrusted me with the task of spearheading and coordinating the preparations for this very special year. The work involved will be undertaken by an organising committee made up of delegates from all the Faculties, the Central Administration, the Rectorate and the partners of the University, supported by a team of curators.

Our intention is to highlight the achievements of our University in research and teaching and to give all those interested, both in Germany and abroad, a graphic impression of our research environment. We want to showcase the good relations we have with our partners all over the world and also to act as a think-tank generating new ideas for the continuing development of the University.

On a personal note, let me say how immensely gratifying it is for me to be centrally involved in this mission. Everywhere I go, I have encountered friendly encouragement, hands-on support and an overwhelming readiness to play an active part in the run-up to the anniversary and to contribute to making this momentous occasion a resounding success.

This success hinges crucially on creative support from the entire University and active commitment from our friends and associates. To make participation as broad and intensive as possible, notably on the part of the students, this newsletter will be appearing four times a year. It will keep you informed on our plans, the decisions we have taken and the events that have been finalised or envisaged.

Please be as generous as you can in communicating your ideas and giving us hands-on assistance in making this anniversary an event we can all look back on with pride and pleasure. In particular, we look forward to hearing any critical comments you may have to make.

With best regards,
Jochen Tröger





University Summer Night
2008

Overview of the Anniversary Year

Opening event	23 October 2010
Closing event	22 October 2011
Week of festivities	25 June to 3 July 2011

Opening event of the festivities week 2011

The opening event in the week of festivities is scheduled for Saturday, 25 June 2011 on University Square and in the adjacent buildings, including the New University, which by then will have been renovated with the proceeds from the fundraising project »Dem Lebendigen Geist. New University 2011+«. The members of the University will be celebrating with their partners and friends, and everyone is invited to join in.

Good ideas and active contributions to the celebrations are very welcome!

World conference on procedural law

On the occasion of the University's anniversary, the World Conference on Procedural Law will be taking place in Heidelberg from 25 to 29 July 2011. Chief organiser is Prof. Dr. Burkhard Hess.

Planning support for conferences

Other major national and international conferences and academic events are very welcome. They should be clearly designated as events taking place in the anniversary year. University premises are available free of charge and organisers are assured of professional support from the University's conference management team. They can also count on particularly attractive conditions from Heidelberg Marketing (m:con). You can also be sure that a member of the Rectorate of Heidelberg University will be on hand to open the event.

There are still slots available for your event in the anniversary year.

Alumni

The national groups of Alumni International will be meeting in Heidelberg on Sunday, 26 June 2011. The alumni intend to visit their respective Faculties on 27 June.

Remember to keep us posted about your activities in this connection. Tell us how your Faculty intends to celebrate this reunion with its former members on 27 June.

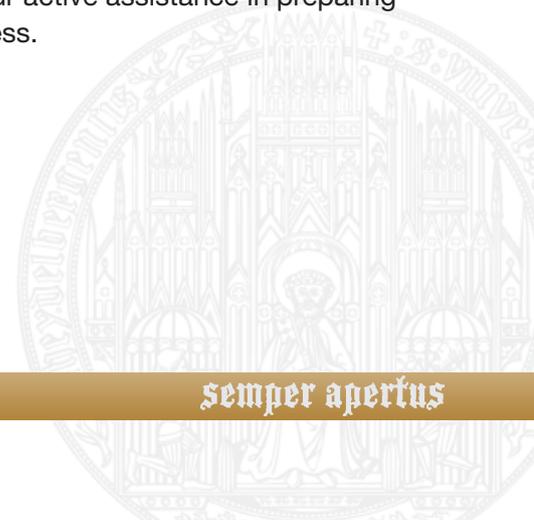
Please bear this request in mind. We need your active assistance in preparing for the anniversary year and making it a success.

I look forward to working with you.

We need your support.

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New University



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Dem lebendigen Geist – The Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

An integral part of the University's anniversary activities is the campaign »Dem lebendigen Geist. New University 2011+«. It is dedicated to the renovation and modernisation of the buildings known collectively as the New University. The modernisation drive will cost at least 8 million euros and the University is organising a fundraising effort to cover the costs involved by the time the anniversary celebrations begin in 2011.

Achieving a combination of tradition and modernity was the idea behind the construction of the New University in the early 1930s. In the course of time the building has become not only an emblem of the University but also of the city itself. In 2011, the 625th anniversary of the foundation of Heidelberg University, the premises are to be equipped with the latest technology and renovated from top to bottom with a view to providing ideal conditions for the students. In this way the building will epitomise not only the communication of knowledge but also embody the principles of openness, dialogue and an orientation to the future, in short »der lebendige Geist« or the creative spirit informing Heidelberg's profile as a comprehensive university.

To achieve this ambitious goal, the University has initiated the campaign »Dem lebendigen Geist, New University 2011+« to coincide with its anniversary celebrations. The original building erected in 1930/1931 owes its existence to the commitment of generous donors. In 1928 the American ambassador in Berlin and alumnus of Heidelberg University, Jacob Gould Schurman, masterminded a fundraising campaign for the purpose. It was so successful that it has been taken as the model for the present renovation drive. »A society without visions is poor indeed, an anniversary without visions will be no more than a retrospective,« said Rector Professor Dr. Bernhard Eitel with reference to the University's anniversary and the central modernisation project for the lecture-hall building, which has been placed under the patronage of former Federal Chancellor and Heidelberg alumnus, Dr. Helmut Kohl. »Dem lebendigen Geist« is the dedication inscribed above the main entrance to the New University. An approximate translation would be »To the Creative Mind«. It was proposed by the illustrious professor of German Studies Friedrich Gundolf (1880-1931) and it is also the title of the extensive accompanying programme with which the University hopes to enlist support for the project from its friends and partners.

The next highlights scheduled for 2009 are events revolving around the five senses. The first is on Saturday, 16 May, when a fascinating »knowledge show« will take place at the main lecture hall of the Department of Chemistry on the Neuenheimer Feld campus. On Friday, 29 May there will be an open-air concert on University Square involving the University Chorus, the University Orchestra and the Department of Musicology. The festive conclusion to the »Five Senses« series will be the Summer Night of the University on Saturday, 27 June.