

Dear Alumni of Ruperto Carola,

Many of you returned to Heidelberg for the university's anniversary last year – in 2012, we »Heidelbergers« have travelling plans ourselves and look forward to meeting our alumni around the world! The first thing on our agenda was a visit to New Delhi in India – Heidelberg University is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its South Asia Institute (SAI), which was founded in 1962 as a scientific institution of Ruperto Carola with a branch office in New Delhi.

A university delegation headed by the Rector took the SAI anniversary as an opportunity to meet up with friends and alumni in India on three occasions between 23 and 28 March. The first of these occasions was the initial meeting within our new Research-Alumni network project on 23 and 24 March. On 25 March, alumni from India and neighbouring countries met for the first meeting of the new Heidelberg Alumni India club. The third and final event was the big SAI anniversary conference on 26-28 March.

The second Research-Alumni meeting is scheduled for September and will take place in Boston/USA. But first things first: In May, we will meet with alumni and friends of Ruperto Carola from North, Central and South America in Playa del Carmen/Mexico for the Pan-American Alumni Meeting 2012 that was organised jointly by HAI and our Mexican HAMEX club. In Heidelberg, things will heat up this summer as we wait for the results of the second phase of the German Excellence Initiative – Heidelberg University has once again reached the final round of this competition with six projects entered.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all alumni who supported their Alma Mater with donations in this past year. We look forward to another year with you and to many exciting encounters!

Sincerely,

Silke Rodenberg

Silke Rodenberg · HAI Executive Director

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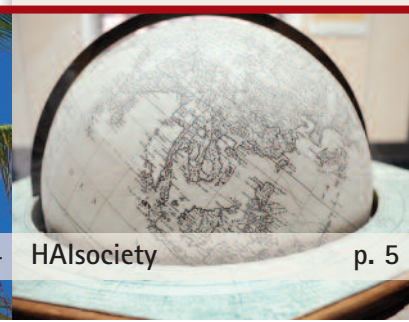
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News

The year 2012 began with the presentation of an award on 19 January 2012 at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities: At the New Year's reception of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Heidelberg University was recognised for its success in the nation-wide idea contest »Research-Alumni of universities in Germany«. University Rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel and HAI Director Silke Rodenberg accepted the award, endowed with 130,000 EUR, for the Heidelberg Best Practice Model. The 18-month project offers international scientists who are staying or have stayed in Heidelberg for research multiple ways of becoming involved in the installation of the international Research-Alumni network.

Another important decision regarding the university will be made on 15 June 2012: on this day, the Grants Committee will decide on the distribution of funding in the last round of the Excellence Initiative. Ruperto Carola is hosting successful projects in all three funding lines – institutional strategy, clusters of excellence and graduate schools – of the last round in 2006/2007 and has submitted six applications for continued funding. Besides the university's institutional strategy, entries in the competition include the clusters of excellence »Asia and Europe in a Global Context« and »Cellular Networks«, and the »Heidelberg Graduate

School of Fundamental Physics«, the »Hartmut Hoffmann-Berling International Graduate School of Molecular and Cellular Biology« in Heidelberg and the »Heidelberg Graduate School of Mathematical and Computational Methods for the Sciences«. The applications of all participating German universities are currently under review; the decision regarding the distribution of more than 2.5 billion EUR in funding will be made on 15 June. No matter what the results – on the evening of 15 June, members, alumni and friends of Ruperto Carola will celebrate at the Rector's traditional summer party in the Marstallhof building.

Last year, we asked you, dear Alumni, for donations to support the work of your university. Today, we want to thank you again for your financial contribution, which helps ensure that Heidelberg University can continue to be a model of future-oriented teaching and research. We have received generous donations from several countries, with a significant portion of the money – part of which is intended for a new scholarship fund – coming from our alumni in the United States. We also want to send out a special thanks to those alumni that support us with annual donations. We greatly appreciate your help and hope that we may continue to count on it!



HAlight

Once a month, we invite alumni and members of the Alumni & Friends Association of Heidelberg University (Gesellschaft der Freunde Universität Heidelberg e.V., GdF) to a HAlight – an exclusive event for a small

circle of friends and supporters. Two such HAlights are described below; for descriptions of the events of the preceding months, please go to http://www.alumni.uni-heidelberg.de/service_hailight.html.

HAIlight January: Kick-off 2012 with presentation of the Friends' Award

The first HAIlight of the year was the presentation of the Friends' Award on 27 January 2012, an annual event of the GdF since 1995. The award was given to the student initiative Artefakt, which publishes a journal for young art and art history. 30 alumni gathered in the »Senatssaal« room of the Old University for the presentation of the 2,500 EUR award and the following reception. The awardees accepted the certificate and check in the presence of Rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel and introduced their project in a brief interactive presentation. The reception with champagne and finger food gave alumni and students the chance to get to know each other and chat with the Rector.

HAIlight February: »God and the Evolution« in the COS

On 24 February 2012, 40 alumni, students, scientists and friends of the university were invited to an impressive journey through evolutionary history. In an animated lecture, Prof. Dr. Peter Leins, alumnus and professor at the Centre for Organismal Studies Heidelberg (COS), traced the path of evolution from blue-green algae to the age of Homo sapiens. The discussion following the lecture focused on Darwin's theses on evolution

and the question of whether or not the »survival of the fittest« is a concept that can be applied to social contexts.

These are the events we have planned for the coming months:

HAIlight April: Visit of the Sinti and Roma Documentation Centre

On 20 April 2012, we want to visit the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma. This Heidelberg institution is the only one of its kind in Europe and serves as a place of meeting and remembrance. The centre hosts a permanent exhibition on the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis against the ethnic minority of the Sinti and Roma.

HAIlight May: »Astronomy in Heidelberg« – a tour of the House of Astronomy

The galaxy-shaped House of Astronomy that we will visit on 25 May 2012 was opened in December of 2011 on the Königstuhl summit. In the course of our tour of this centre for public relations and education in astronomy, we will also be attending a presentation given by the institution's director Dr. Markus Pössel.



Professional networks

As late as the 1990s, students simply picked up their diplomas at the end of their studies – nowadays, common graduation parties for students of different subjects are becoming increasingly popular. HAI supports these parties, which often take place in the festive rooms of the Old University, with various

supplies and lends a hand in their organisation with the support of the alumni clubs of the individual subjects. These parties are a great opportunity to encourage graduates to become actively involved in alumni work and to raise awareness of the HAI initiative.



International Networks

HALU

For our alumni from Luxembourg, the year began with a trip to the French HAFR club: During their stay in Paris on 21-22 January, the 14 alumni had the chance to do some sightseeing that included the Val de Grâce monument. At Pentecost, the Luxembourg alumni will be travelling to Italy to meet with the members of the new HAIT club; the trip will take them to the greater Milan area, and to the region of Piedmont. For the preliminary itinerary, go to <http://halu.uni-hd.de>. On 6 March 2012, the HALU members met at the »Aux Anciennes Tanneries« restaurant in Wiltz for the sixth annual meeting of the club. <http://halu.uni-hd.de>.

HAMEX

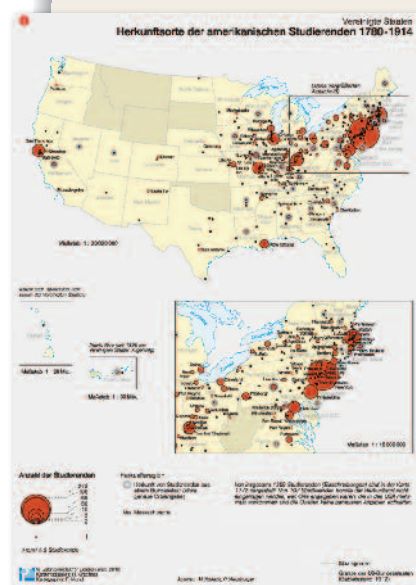
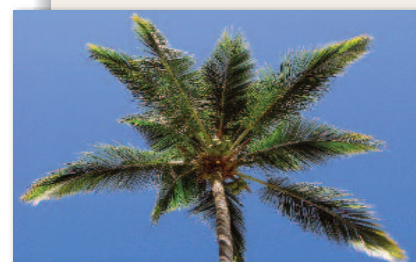
The first intercontinental alumni meeting for North, Central and South America will take place from 17 to 20 May 2012 in Playa del Carmen/Mexico. The »Pan-American Alumni Meeting 2012« is organised jointly by HAMEX and HAI. Among the planned events are a »Mexican Night« with a gala dinner and the awarding of the »HAMEX HONORS« for special merits in the support of HAMEX. For information on the meeting and on a »Special Alumni Deal« for accommodation, please go to www.hamex.uni-hd.de/termine_panamerika2012.html.

You can register for the meeting until 16 April at www.hamex.uni-hd.de/anmeldung_panamerika2012.html. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to clubs@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de or to hamex@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de. <http://hamex.uni-hd.de>

HAUS

The symbiotic relationship between universities and their economic and social environment was the subject of a joint event of the Heidelberg University Association and the German Center for Research & Innovation in New York on 29 February 2012. Senior Professor Dr. Peter Meusburger presented the »Wissenschaftsatlas der Universität Heidelberg«, which shows the manifold ways in which Ruperto Carola and its research institutions are connected with the university's immediate environment and the global scientific community.

In the coming months, HAUS will be preparing for the 4th Annual National Meeting in Boston from 21 to 23 September 2012. Boston will also be the site of the next Research-Alumni network meeting on 20-21 September. <http://haus.uni-hd.de>



Regional Networks

Munich metropolitan area

A small group of alumni from the Munich region had its first regular meeting on 3 February 2012. The idea for this new group was born during an initial encounter in Munich in November at the invitation of HAI, within the framework of a network meeting of the alumni work group of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). A

second meeting in which the alumni will attend an event followed by refreshments has been planned for the summer. In addition, the HAI-net now features a Munich regional group for all alumni living in the greater Munich area. Members logged onto the HAI-net can find the group at <https://alumniportal-heidelberg.de/groups.aspx?g=52>.



HAIsociety

Tilman Spengler, sinologist, writer and journalist, celebrated his 65th birthday on 2 March. Spengler, who studied sinology, politics and history in Heidelberg, has made a name for himself as a historian and writer and was co-editor of the cultural magazine »Kursbuch«. A recognised expert on China, Spengler accompanied former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and former Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on their trips to China in 2001 and 2008, respectively, and now serves on the board of trustees of the »Sinology Heidelberg Alumni Network« (SHAN). In a 2008 interview with SHAN, he described his relationship with Heidelberg as follows: »My first sinology lecture, my first time swimming across a river,

my first time working in a university library, my first time of being hopelessly in love.«

Takeshi Nakane, Japanese diplomat, is the new ambassador of Japan in Germany. The 62-year-old, who studied law at Ruperto Carola for several semesters in the 1970s, has taken up his new position on 9 March in Berlin. Before that, he worked as Japanese ambassador for the International Organisations in Vienna. It's already the fourth term in office in Germany for the Heidelberg alumnus: In earlier years, he was Vice Consul at the Consulate General of Japan in Berlin, First Secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Bonn as well as Consul General of Japan in Munich.

Study

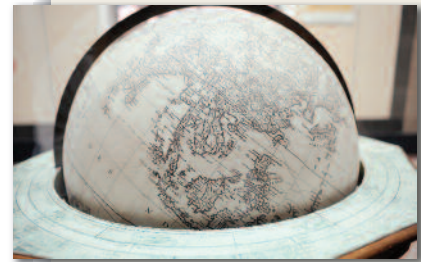
From 16 to 20 March 2012, Ruperto Carola was represented for the first time at the German Higher Education Fair Greece in Athens and Thessaloniki. Germany and Greece traditionally maintain very good academic relations, as the German system of education became the model for Greek universities in many areas, a fact that led to many German professors accepting teach-

ing positions in Greece. Even today, many Greek professors have studied in Germany, and German universities continue to be very popular among Greek students and doctoral candidates. Heidelberg University also maintains excellent academic relations with Greece – the Greek alumni club HAGR, founded in 2002, was the first foreign alumni organisation of Ruperto Carola.

Awards

On **11 May 2012**, Heidelberg University will present the **Ruprecht Karls Awards** in the Great Hall of the Old University. These awards are given to young researchers in recognition of outstanding doctoral theses. In her key address on »60 years of European

integration«, Prof. Dr. Juliane Kokott, Advocate General at the European Court of Justice and Heidelberg alumna, will reflect on the unparalleled achievements of the European unification process. This year's awardees are jurist Dr. Stefanie Valta, histo-



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rian Dr. Daniel Jütte, economist Johanna Kühnel, sports scientist Dr. Michael Schwenk and physicist Dr. Miriam Fritsche. In the course of the ceremony, the Viktor and Sigrid Dulger Foundation will also present

the Environmental Award that recognises outstanding achievements of young scientists in the field of environmental research and law, to environmental physicist Dr. Sebastian Westermann.



Calendar

20. April 2012: HAllight of the month: Visit of the Sinti and Roma Documentation Centre in Heidelberg

11 May 2012: Presentation of the Ruprecht Karls Awards in the assembly hall of the Old University, Heidelberg

17 to 20 May 2012: »Pan-American Alumni Meeting 2012« in Playa del Carmen/Mexico

24 May 2012: »LERU Alumni Get Together« in Amsterdam/Netherlands

25 May 2012: HAllight of the month: Visit of the House of Astronomy, Heidelberg

26 May to 3 June 2012: HALU trip to Italy

5 and 6 May 2012: HAUS Regional Chair Seminar in Denver/USA

15 June 2012: Summer party given by the Rector for members, friends and alumni of the university at Marstallhof, Heidelberg

6 and 7 July 2012: Friends' Day (GdF), Heidelberg

23 July to 1 August 2012: Summer school of the alumni network »Education and Technology Transfer« in Dresden/Heidelberg (applications are no longer accepted)

20/21 September 2012: Research-Alumni network meeting in Boston/USA

21 to 23 September 2012: HAUS – 4th Annual National Meeting in Boston/USA

22 to 26 October 2012: Fourth Alumni Club Seminar in Heidelberg

Late 2012/Early 2013: Founding meeting of HAIT in Italy

February 2013: Research-Alumni network meeting in Italy

Subject to change without notice!

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