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## DEAR ALUMNI OF RUPERTO CAROLA,



Heidelberg University scored a great success in the second funding round of the German Excellence Initiative: It is one of only six German universities whose implementation of an institutional strategy received a positive evaluation and whose five applications for renewed funding were also successful.

This achievement is the result of the outstanding scientific work of researchers, staff and students – but it would not have been possible without the fantastic and continuous support of the friends and alumni of Ruperto Carola. Quite a number of alumni and members of the Alumni & Friends Association of Heidelberg University (Gesellschaft der Freunde Universität Heidelberg e.V.) celebrated the good news until the wee hours of the morning at the Ruperto Carola Summer Party at the Marstallhof on 15 June 2012.

This success is also giving new momentum to our alumni work all over the globe. In the past few months we have

begun to train moderators of the various alumni groups. Later this year we are planning to hold webinars – online training sessions for our active alumni in the international clubs. Since successful alumni work relies on the dedication and commitment of former students and teachers, we want to set up more subject and regional groups in addition to the international clubs. If you would like to start a HAI group in your region or think that there should be a separate group for alumni of your subject – please contact us! We are happy about every contribution from our alumni.

This is the fourth issue of our newsletter – and as you may have noticed, it boasts a new layout. We have adapted the newsletter's look to the new corporate design of Heidelberg University. You can still navigate to the individual articles using the menu on the title page. Enjoy reading!

*Silke Rodenberg*

Yours sincerely, Silke Rodenberg  
Director of HAI



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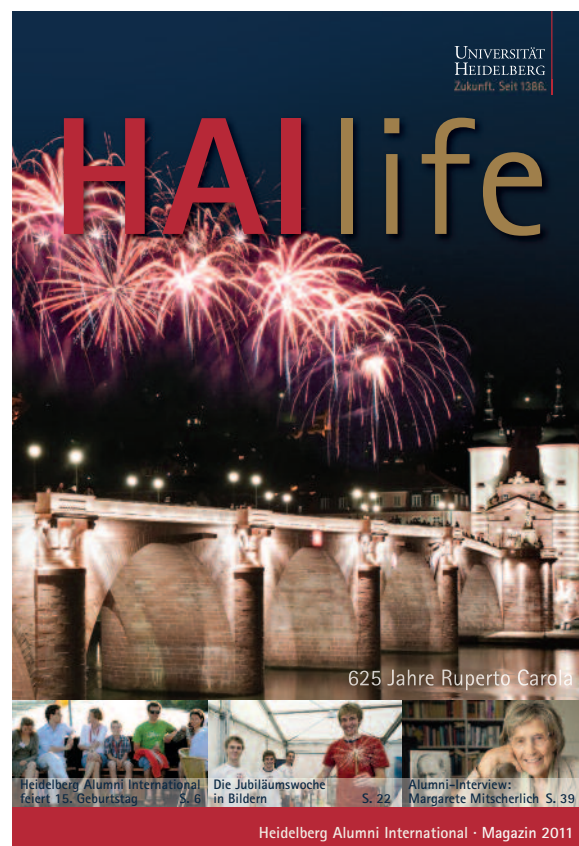
## NEWS

From 22 to 26 October 2012 we will be hosting another Alumni Club Seminar in Heidelberg. The seminar is intended for alumni who are active in our international club work. The training and information provided by the seminar enables these volunteers to act as multipliers in their home countries. The event is funded in part by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD.

The Alumni & Friends Association of Heidelberg University (GdF) held its annual Day of Friends (Tag der Freunde) on 6 and 7 July 2012. After the meeting on Friday the members proceeded straight to the garden party in Villa Haus Buhl. Among the events of the day was a performance by the Anglistenchor, the choir of Heidelberg University's Department of English, which was awarded the GdF prize that evening. On Saturday, interested GdF members were invited to take part in an art historical tour of the town with Prof. Dr. Michael Hesse of the Institute for European Art History.



The alumni work group of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) met for the fourth time on 24 and 25 May 2012. LERU, of which Ruperto Carola is a member, is an association of the strongest research universities in Europe. This latest meeting was hosted by the University of Amsterdam. The event included a reception with approximately 70 alumni of the member universities. The meeting with international colleagues offered many stimuli for the work of Heidelberg Alumni International. The Imperial College London and the University of Oxford were welcomed as new members of the LERU work group.



The last printed issue of our alumni magazine HAllife to be sent to you all will be published at the end of the year; starting in 2013, HAllife will only be available with a free subscription. This is due to postal charges and the necessity of updating addresses. If you would like to continue receiving the magazine free of charge, you can subscribe to it in HAI-net under the menu option »Service – Subscriptions«. And for those of you who prefer reading the magazine online: The electronic versions of all issues are available under the menu option »Service – HAllife«.





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## HAILIGHT

Once a month, we invite alumni and members of the Alumni & Friends Association of Heidelberg University (GdF) to a HAIlight – an exclusive event for a small circle of friends and supporters. Two such HAIlights are presented below; for information on the events of the preceding months, please go to [http://www.alumni.uni-heidelberg.de/en/service\\_hailight.html](http://www.alumni.uni-heidelberg.de/en/service_hailight.html).

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

More than 90 alumni gathered on the Königstuhl summit on 25 May 2012 to tour the House of Astronomy, which has become a crowd-pulling attraction in Heidelberg. Dr. Markus Pössel, the director of the facility, presented interesting facts about the new public relations and education



centre for astronomy. In the main auditorium of the galaxy-shaped building, a circular room seating up to 100 people, the alumni were able to catch a glimpse of the stars thanks to a realistic projection on the room's ceiling. Heidelberg University is a partner of the House of Astronomy, which was founded by the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science and the Klaus Tschira Foundation.

### **HAIlight July: High ropes course in Neckargemünd**

The high ropes course in Neckargemünd was the HAIlight of the month on 20 July 2012. Ten alumni of all ages took up the challenge of navigating the low course, an undertaking that required courage, agility and trust in the other group members despite the low height of 40 cm. After two hours of handling swinging ropes, pendulums and thin balancing poles, during which the participants fought their way across an »acid lake« using thin wooden beams and guided »blinded« group members with eye patches safely to the



other side, the group of strangers had become a real team. The exertions were followed by a barbecue which offered ample opportunity to enjoy the new team spirit.

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

#### **HAIlight September: Vineyard walking tour and wine tasting in Schriesheim**

After the great success of the 2011 tour, we are planning another walking and wine tasting tour at the Majer vineyard in Schriesheim in September 2012.



#### **HAIlight October: Pharmacy museum in Heidelberg (planned)**

In October 2012, we have scheduled a visit to the Pharmacy Museum in Heidelberg – we will be given an exclusive alumni tour and no doubt gain interesting insights into the world of herbs, pills and elixirs.



## PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

### Alumni of the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy

The Faculty of Physics and Astronomy hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> alumni meeting on 29 and 30 June 2012. Around 250 alumni accepted the invitation to reconnect with former fellow students, colleagues and friends. They were able to take a look at the new building of the Institute for Physics – the Klaus Tschira Building in the Neuenheimer Feld district – that will be inaugurated in September. The Dean's welcoming address was followed by a physical colloquium, individual events of the various institutes and a barbecue. [www.physik.uni-heidelberg.de/alumni/index.php?lang=en](http://www.physik.uni-heidelberg.de/alumni/index.php?lang=en)

### Alumni of the Institute for German as a Foreign Language Philology (IDF)

Heidelberg alumnus Prof. Dr. Sandro Moraldo spent four weeks of the summer semester 2012 in Heidelberg as a guest of the Institute for German as a Foreign Language Philology. The visit was part of a lecturer exchange programme between Ruperto Carola and the University of



Bologna. Prof. Moraldo, who majored in German studies, Romance studies and comparative studies in Heidelberg, earned his PhD from Heidelberg University and is now teaching German studies at the University of Bologna, held a seminar on topics of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century world literature. The lecturer exchange between the IDF and the Dipartimento di Studi Interdisciplinari su Traduzione, Lingue e Culture of the University of Bologna was initiated in 2009 by Sandro Moraldo and Prof. Dr. Franz Loquai of the IDF within the scope of the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme Erasmus project. <https://alumniportal-heidelberg.de/groups.aspx?g=39>

### Alumni network »Education and Technology Transfer«

Approximately 20 alumni from 14 countries came to Heidelberg from 28 July to 1 August 2012 to take part in the summer school of the alumni network »Education and Technology Transfer« at the Institute for Education Studies. The summer school is aimed at alumni from developing and



emerging countries who studied in Germany and now hold leading positions in their home countries. This year's topic was the advancement of transformative and innovative processes in developing countries. The first part of the summer school took place from 23 to 27 July 2012 in Dresden. The alumni network, which consists of over 300 young experts from more than 60 countries, was founded in 2008 as a joint initiative of Ruperto Carola, Technische Universität Dresden, the University of Leipzig and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich.



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## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

### Heidelberg Alumni France (HAFR)

The challenges faced by scientific culture in times of crises and change were the subject of a colloquium in Paris that was also attended by the French alumni club HAFR. The event on 12 and 13 April 2012 was organised by the Association Humboldt France whose president Prof. Dr. Damien Erhardt is also a member of HAFR. After the colloquium, the French alumni club invited the attendees to a reception on 14 April that was hosted by the German ambassador to France, Reinhard Schäfers.  
[www.hafr.uni-hd.de](http://www.hafr.uni-hd.de)

### Heidelberg Alumni India (HAIN)

The Indian club for alumni of Ruperto Carola, HAIN, was founded in March 2012 and is presided over by Dr. Prahlad Desai. As of today, there are nine chapters in various regions of the country; for more information please see [www.hain.uni-hd.de/en/chapters.html](http://www.hain.uni-hd.de/en/chapters.html). The new club is looking forward to ideas, suggestions and contributions from alumni, who can register at [hain@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:hain@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de). A number of smaller meetings are planned at HAIN's booth



at the »Heidelberg UniverCity, Future – Since 1386« exhibition, which will be presented in various Indian cities through January 2013. For a review of the first Research-Alumni Network Meeting that took place in March in New Delhi, please go [here](#).  
[www.hain.uni-hd.de/en/index.html](http://www.hain.uni-hd.de/en/index.html)

### Heidelberg Alumni Italy (HAIT)

A three-day alumni meeting with the participation of Rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel is planned in February of 2013 in Italy. The event will be opened by the 3rd Research-Alumni Network Meeting on 22 and 23 February, followed by the

alumni meeting for the founding of the HAIT club. The venue will be Rome or Milan.  
[www.hait.uni-hd.de](http://www.hait.uni-hd.de)

### Heidelberg Alumni Luxembourg (HALU)

The Luxembourg alumni club HALU travelled in Italy from 26 May to 3 June. The trip of the 12 alumni began in Milan, where Sandro Moraldo of the new HAIT club spent four days showing the group the sights of the city, including an evening at the famous Scala opera house. The next leg of the journey took the club to Genoa, where alumna Claudia Goldhagen showed the group famous and hidden places in the city, then on to Piedmont for a glimpse of that region's



wine culture, and finally to Turin. After nine days on this »study trip«, the group returned home with a suitcase full of wonderful memories – and plans for the next tour: after two failed attempts, HALU is finally setting sail for Greece in 2013. Photos of the trip to Italy are available [here](#):  
[www.halu.uni-hd.de](http://www.halu.uni-hd.de)

### Heidelberg Alumni Mexico (HAMEX)

The first pan-American alumni meeting took place in Playa del Carmen, Mexico from 17 to 20 May 2012. The meeting was attended by 20 members of HAMEX and HAUS who took this opportunity to socialise and meet new people, and to give new impetus to the work in their respective clubs. HAUS takes inspiration from the Mexican internship project and the HAMEX Honours that recognise special contributions toward supporting the club. HAMEX is modelling itself after the chapter structure of HAUS and has already established regional chapters in Monterrey, Mexico City and Guadalajara. More information is available at [www.hamex.uni-hd.de/en/chapters.html](http://www.hamex.uni-hd.de/en/chapters.html).

### Service

**Have you moved** or changed your email address? Let us know about any changes so we can continue to let you know what's new and keep you informed about our activities. You can reach us at the following address:

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Alumni interested in contributing to the club can register at [hamex@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:hamex@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de). In 2014 HAMEX plans to host a pan-American alumni seminar for active alumni in the neighbouring Latin American countries; if you are interested in participating, please send an e-mail to [clubs@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:clubs@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de). The Mexican club has also submitted a two-year DAAD application for 2013/2014 that will be up for evaluation in the autumn. Photos of the May meeting are posted [here](#).

### Heidelberg Alumni U.S. (HAUS)

HAUS is inviting all alumni and friends of Ruperto Carola in the U.S. to the fifth Annual National Meeting in Boston/Cambridge from 21 to 23 September. The meeting opens on Friday evening with a dinner reception supported and sponsored by the American Junior Year programme and ends with a brunch on Sunday. A full schedule of events is planned for Saturday, among them the presentation of the HAUS mentoring programme. A tour of Boston by land and sea in an amphibious vehicle will be followed by a reception and festive evening programme that includes a discussion between the Rector of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, and Heidelberg alumnus and physics Nobel prize winner Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, who teaches and conducts research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

[www.haus.uni-hd.de/en/index.html](http://www.haus.uni-hd.de/en/index.html)

## REGIONAL NETWORKS

### Rhine-Neckar region

Alumni from the Rhine-Neckar region now have their own group in HAlnet, the online community of HAI. The Heidelberg regional group is a platform for alumni from the Rhine-Neckar region to exchange information, socialise and inform other members of upcoming events. For the past two years, this has included the HAlight of the month, an exclusive event – e.g. lectures, guided tours or walking tours – for alumni from the region. All alumni still or once again living in the Rhine-Neckar region are invited to use the platform for information exchange and discussion and to contribute to the Heidelberg regional group. New ideas are always welcome! Following this example, additional regional groups are planned in Munich, Berlin and other cities. Do you want to set up a new group in your region? Write to us at [clubs@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:clubs@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de)! Here you find the [group](#).





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## RESEARCH-ALUMNI NETWORK

### Research-Alumni Network Meeting in Boston

After the first Research-Alumni Network Meeting in India in March 2012, the second meeting is scheduled on 20 and 21 September in the U.S. Around 25 members of the network will meet in Boston, which will also host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting of HAUS immediately afterwards. The meeting will be attended by the Rector of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel. Among the scheduled events in the German consulate is a panel discussion with Prof. Eitel and the director of the North American DFG office Dr. Max Vögler, as well as two members of the Research-Alumni Network on the subject of »transatlantic opportunities«. The meeting will end with an evening reception at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

### HAireconnect

The HAireconnect option within our new Research-Alumni Network offers international scientists who have completed a research term in Heidelberg the opportunity of returning to Ruperto Carola for a short stay of up to two weeks. Indian philosophy professor and philosopher of science Giridhari

Lal Pandit, a Humboldt scholar who was already several times a guest of the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Theoretical Physics, used this option in June 2012 within the framework of an extended stay at the Institute for Theoretical Physics. During this stay, Prof. Pandit attended the »Research-Alumni Ambassador« seminar to prepare for his role as ambassador for the research location of Heidelberg. Two other Research-Alumni will return to Heidelberg via HAireconnect in September and October 2012. If you are interested in HAireconnect and in the »Research-Alumni Ambassador« seminar, you will find more information [here](#) – free spaces are still available. The first issue of the Research-Alumni newsletter is available [here](#). If you would like to receive information on future issues of the newsletter, write to [research@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:research@alumni.uni-heidelberg.de).

## HAISOCIETY



**Rufus Beck**, actor and narrator, turned 55 on 23 July. Beck was born in Heidelberg and studied ethnology, philosophy and Islamic studies at Heidelberg University after completing his civilian service. He began his acting career at local theatres in Heidelberg. His breakthrough role was the flamboyant Walter

a.k.a. Waltraud in the 1994 film »Maybe... Maybe Not« (original title: »Der bewegte Mann«). Beck also became very popular as the narrator of the German »Harry Potter« audio books, in which he lent his voice to all of the roughly 80 characters. He has since been known as the »king of narrators«.

## CALENDAR

### 20-21 September 2012:

Research-Alumni Network Meeting in Boston/USA

### 21-23 September 2012:

HAUS – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting in Boston/USA

### 5-6 October 2012:

Hamburg meeting of the law section of GdF

### 22-26 October 2012:

Fourth Alumni Club Seminar in Heidelberg

### 2-4 November 2012:

HALU trip to Heidelberg

### 22-23 February 2013:

Research-Alumni Network Meeting in Italy

### 23-24 February 2013:

Alumni meeting for the founding of the new HAIT club in Italy

**Subject to change without notice!**