UNI ULM: 40 YEARS
The Celebration
40 years after its foundation, the University of Ulm presents itself as an institution that is not only rooted in its city and region, but is also internationally…

ALUMNI-NEW PROJECTS
alUmNI ULM international
The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst - DAAD) approved the proposal for a project entitled alUmNI ULM international on 6 September 2006…

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FOCUS SCIENCE
Information via Mobile Phone
Timetable information, from where, to and whenever – hasn’t been a problem on the computer for a long time now. But on the road…?

Young Professionals Award for Aids Researcher from Ulm
On 14 March 2007, Dr. Michael Schindler, staff member of the Institute for Virology, received the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Young Professionals Award in St. Paul’s Church…

Descartes-Prize
An international research team has gained new insight into programmed cell death…

Landeslehrpreis
A team from the University of Ulm’s Institute for Experimental Animal Ecology …

CURRENT ISSUES AND TOPICS
Premieres in the Botanical Garden
Around 30,000 visitors strolled through the University’s botanical garden last year…

FROM THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY
Pink! In Ulm
On the occasion of Schwoermontag (Ulm’s local holiday), the rock revolutionary is now coming to Ulm…

Merian
The new MERIAN extra presents the city of Ulm as a travel destination…

Paddling on the Danube?
Have you always wanted to learn to paddle or practice canoeing…?

CONTINUING EDUCATION
The Academy’s Continuing Education Programme
Overview of the scheduled continuing education events from April 2007…

Continuing Education for Health Professionals
The DAAD (“Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst“ - German Academic Exchange Service) would like to call attention to financial aid available to health professionals in developing countries as part of the “Special Project Medicine”…

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The Celebration

40 years after its foundation, the University of Ulm presents itself as an institution that is not only rooted in its city and region, but is also internationally oriented and internationally competitive. With its foundation date of 25 February 1967, it is the youngest university in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. As heart and motor of the university town of Ulm, the University contributed significantly to the positive structural changes in Ulm as well as to making the city a sustainable one. The University, the clinic and their surroundings in the city of Ulm now offer thousands of attractive jobs and university places.

It all began in the year 1959, when the “Research Group Uni Ulm” was founded. As the Ministry of Education envisioned a medical academy for Ulm, the research group endeavoured to develop into a college of medical and natural sciences. The official foundation celebration of the Ulm College of Medical and Natural Sciences took place on 25 February 1967. In that same year, the College received the name and status of a university. It was granted the designation “University of Ulm (College of Medical and Natural Sciences)” by the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The foundation stone for the new construction was laid on 14 July 1969 on Upper Eselsberg (“Donkey Mountain”). Lectures gradually began taking place, and various academic subjects followed. Construction on new buildings for the Engineering programmes started in 1990 and the University continued to grow with the addition of “Uni West”. In the past few years, new buildings have also been constructed for Computer Science and Clinic Administration. Currently, a facility for basic biochemical research is being built. In mid-2007, construction on the new surgery building will begin as well.

During this time the University has developed outstandingly well. It is a popular place to study and has developed a good reputation. Unconventional courses of study, as well as a large spectrum of internationality make it a competitive university which is aware of its responsibility as a cosmopolitan and modern university.

The University of Ulm is now celebrating its 40th anniversary, and in order to celebrate this occasion befittingly, a series of festivities, presentations and concerts is being offered. There will be a big band night, an exhibition on “The University of Ulm: 40 Years,” various evening events with music and much more.

The academic highlight of the events will be the ceremony on 6 July 2007, the 40th anniversary of the University’s foundation. Connected with this will be a “Festival Saturday” on 07.07.07, which will include an open house at the University with a special programme for everyone, but especially for schoolchildren. The detailed programme and further information about the entire event can be found on the Internet at http://www.uni-ulm.de/40jahre/.

The Alumni Ulm Initiative is contributing to the programme by starting a series of alumni presentations, scheduled to begin in the summer semester of 2007. We are striving to acquire graduates who will present themselves, their backgrounds, and especially their current occupations to the students of the University. For this series of lectures, we are still looking for alumni who would like to volunteer. Please contact the Alumni Office if you are interested in supporting us in this area.

This series of events is not limited to the summer semester of 2007, but will continue into the winter semester and the year 2008.

We would be delighted to welcome you to one of the events in this festive programme celebrating the 40-year anniversary of our university’s foundation. Take advantage of the events, especially those in the week from the 2nd to the 7th of July 2007, to rediscover the
University of Ulm! If you are interested in contributing to this celebration and supporting the University with your assistance, we would love to hear from you (alumni@uni-ulm.de).

ALUMNI – NEW PROJECTS

aluUmNI ULM international
The University of Ulm, in cooperation with the University Society of the University of Ulm and the University’s alumni clubs and associations, submitted a proposal for a project entitled *aluUmNI ULM international*. The German Academic Exchange Service (*Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst* - DAAD) approved the proposal on 6 September 2006. The DAAD is hereby supporting the alumni work of the University at a time in which its internationalisation continues to progress, due to various programmes of study which have been offered in the English language for several years now. With the support of the DAAD, the following measures can be taken and the following ideas can be brought to fruition:

Further information about the project *aluUmNI ULM international* is available from the University of Ulm’s Alumni Office (alumni@uni-ulm.de).

Career Book
We would like to continue our new project “aluUmNI ULM international” by putting together a career book which will present alumni with exceptional CVs, interesting careers or exemplary performance in their fields. The career book will be in the form of a portrait collection featuring successful graduates from the University of Ulm.

Our aim is to present careers to current and future students which have been built on the foundation of a degree from the University of Ulm, and what prospects are possible from there. These examples are especially important for the students of the University of Ulm, a new establishment from the 60’s, as they can’t look back on long traditions and representatives.

Alumni who are from abroad and have completed a degree at our university are of special interest to us at present. We hope that, through them, our international degree programmes will become better-known and will soon enjoy more popularity. The career book will be available in two languages, both in German and in English. Please contact us if you would be interested in appearing in our career book, or if you know of someone who would.

New Homepage
From the 1st of May, Alumni Ulm will be presented on a new site which has been adapted to reflect the corporate design of the University of Ulm’s homepage. New options, such as registration on an alumni online database, as well as detailed articles about the current project *aluUmNI ULM international*, are examples of the important additions to what was previously offered. The clearer structure and more convenient design guarantee the site to be more user-friendly as well.

Have fun exploring the new options!

New Alumni-Brochure available!
The University’s activities and offers are now presented in a new brochure for the alumni – available both in German and in English. The aims and the concept of the Alumni Programme (basic model and full membership) are presented briefly, as are the alumni associations and clubs. The brochure can be downloaded here or, if you would like a printed copy, please request one from the Alumni Office.
Access to Timetables via Mobile Phone

Timetable information, from where, where to and whenever – hasn’t been a problem on the computer for a long time now. But on the road, in the car or in a restaurant? This could also soon be easier. One prerequisite: a suitable mobile phone. Young professional scientists at the University of Ulm’s Institute for Information Technology, under the direction of Professor Wolfgang Minker, have developed a system for this which is solely voice-controlled. It already works for the local public transportation in Ulm. The size of the transferred data, however, had to be sizeably reduced: down to only ten kilobytes per inquiry. In this way, the acquired mobile phone fees amount to five or ten cents. A further prerequisite is the mobile phone’s access to a high-capacity server, which allows for access to the Internet and the timetable information available there.

Young Professionals Award for AIDS Researcher from Ulm

On 14 March 2007, Dr. Michael Schindler, staff member of the Institute for Virology (Head: Dr. Frank Kirchhoff), received the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Young Professionals Award in St. Paul’s Church in Frankfurt. This award has a value of 60,000 euros. The 28-year-old virologist was honoured in 2006 in the magazine Cell for his published work, which deals with one aspect of the HIV infection. It is about the matter of why viruses related to the HI Virus don’t produce any symptoms of the disease in numerous kinds of monkeys. While the Nef protein in the monkey is capable of controlling the heightened activation of the immune system following infection, this protective function has been lost in humans throughout the course of evolution.

Descartes Prize Presented to European Research Team Including Klaus-Michael Debatin of Ulm

With new insights into the mechanism and malfunction of programmed cell death, a research team from France, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Germany have opened new doors for treating illnesses such as AIDS and cancer. They’ve recently been awarded the European Commission’s Descartes Prize for their work. Every second several millions of cells in the human body die of programmed cell death (apoptosis). If this system malfunctions, too many or too few cells die. With cancer, for example, natural cell death is inhibited, so that the cancer cells thrive. With AIDS, the problem is increased cell death. The HI Virus causes the body’s immune cells to die more quickly and the body’s immune system to collapse. The prize-winning international research team including Dr. Klaus-Michael Debatin, director of the Children’s Health Institute and dean of the Medical School at the University of Ulm, have gained new insight into how and why cells “decide” to die. Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Research, presented the prize on 7 March in Brussels. The results achieved by the prize-winning team have been quoted over 50,000 times in other professional journals since 2001 – evidence of their significance. The European Commission has been awarding the Descartes Prize, worth 1 million euros, to international research teams from a variety of disciplines for seven years. Including Dr. Debatin, two researchers from the University of Ulm have now received the Descartes Prize. In 2001 Dr.
Peter Baeuerle and his team received the Descartes Prize. Baeuerle is the head of the Institute for Organic Chemistry II and New Materials.

Minister Frankenberg Honours Ulm Biologists

Science, praised the University of Ulm’s Biology Department for its instructional methods as well as its international orientation. Professor Elisabeth Kalko, Professor Manfred Ayasse, Dr. Martin Pfeiffer, Dr. Marco Tschapka and Dr. Stefan Jarau received the award worth 40,000 euros.

CURRENT ISSUES AND TOPICS

Attractive Premieres in the Botanical Garden

Around 30,000 visitors strolled through the University’s botanical garden last year. Only 3000, however, took advantage of the green house tours which were offered. That number could dramatically increase with this year’s planned expansion of the programme, in cooperation with the Friends of the University. There are many attractive new options among the 80 listed in the programme. In the annual programme you will find details of all that is being offered, such as a botanical summer course for interested lay people, a workshop on the “world of scents,” tours of the daylily garden (just opened in 2006) or a three-day intensive seminar on “an introduction to the great variety of fungus shapes” in October of 2007.

Further information at: http://www.biologie.uni-ulm.de/garten/veranstaltungen.html.

FROM THE CITY AND THE COUNTRY

Pink! In Ulm

Pink! In Ulm! As part of the Schwoermontag (Ulm’s local holiday) festivities, the rock revolutionaries who entranced German audiences last year is now coming to Ulm, to mesmerize the Swabian population. The concert is scheduled for 22 July at 8:00pm on the Cathedral Square. The band “Die Happy” will be the opening act. “Die Happy” is a local band from Ulm which is famous all over Germany.
The new MERIAN extra presents the city of Ulm and its surroundings as a first-class travel destination. Brilliant photo essays show the calm beauty of the Swabian Jura as well as the picturesque Fishermen’s Quarter in Ulm’s Old Town. Along with its romantic side, modern Ulm is presented in the new MERIAN as a young, first-rate economic city with its sense of architecture and design. A city whose style received the College of Design’s stamp of approval and in which the University on Eselsberg (Donkey Mountain) has been setting standards for 20 years. And above all, of course, rises the world record-holding church: the Ulmer Muenster (Ulm Cathedral). MERIAN shares the fascinating stories behind this 600-year-old building.

5 euros. This issue with 140 pages includes a detailed section on service and information, with tips for tourists, a city map and informational graphics. Highlight: an up-to-date foldout map put together by the MERIAN editorial staff.

**Paddling on the Danube?**
Have you always wanted to learn to paddle or practice canoeing? This is now possible again on certain Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 May 2007. The meeting point is at the aqua terra canoe shop, where you can pick out suitable boots and equipment. The cost is 10 euros and registration is required. For further information, please look at http://www.kanuladen.info.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**The Academy of Science, Economics and Technology at the University of Ulm**
Here is a brief overview of the Academy’s scheduled continuing education events and programmes from April 2007. More information about all of the courses is available on the Academy’s website www.uni-ulm.de/akademie.

**Continuing Education Degree Course “Financial Services” – Concentration on Financial Risk Management and Actuarial Economics – from April 2007**
The aim of the continuing education degree course “Financial Services” is to offer financial service professionals the opportunity to bring their knowledge up-to-date in defined areas of the financial services field. This course is designed for professionals and is intended to be taken parallel to work. The umbrella term “Financial Services” includes Actuarial Sciences, Financial Mathematics and Financial Management.

**The University of Ulm Clinical Traineeships in China**
10-12 April 2007 – the University of Ulm
Workshop designed for medical students who intend to do their clinical traineeship in China, with the aim of acquiring cultural competence.

**Safety in Genetic Engineering**
2-3 May 2007 –Reisensburg Castle Science Centre
State-recognised seminar aimed at project managers and delegates responsible for biological safety. Participants will acquire knowledge according to the standards in paragraphs 15 and/or 17 of GenTSV. There are still spots available!
Distance Learning Courses in Financial and Actuarial Sciences
23 May - 6 October 2007
These courses are aimed at professionals in (insurance) business, banks, consulting firms and software companies with a solid educational background in mathematics. The aim is to impart basic comprehensive knowledge in the respective subject areas. As the course contents cover the requirements of the German Association of Actuaries (Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung – DAV) examination, taking the course provides an excellent opportunity to prepare for the actuary exam.

Basic Biomechanics and Biomechanical Methods for Experimental Research of the Musculoskeletal System
24-27 July 2007 – The University of Ulm
The aim of this workshop it to train clinicians and inexperienced biomedical engineers in the basic principles of biomechanics. Participants who have previously attended classes in basic mechanics can start the workshop on the second day. This workshop will enable the students to learn about planning and conducting biomechanical experiments, with a balanced mixture of 7 lectures and 12 labs. The number of participants is limited to 20 in order to guarantee maximum benefit for the individual students.

Architectural Refinement and Design in SystemC
24-26 July 2007 – The University of Ulm
With SystemC, a high-capacity modelling platform was created which enables one to describe various abstract and detail levels of electronic systems in a broad range of applications. Taking into consideration the special requirements for developing parallel systems, the language SystemC and the constructs C and C++, which are prerequisites for SystemC, will be introduced in this workshop. The theoretical basics will be applied in practical exercises. The participants will be able to describe specifications in SystemC on their own, explore system architecture and create virtual prototypes.

31st Compact Seminar in Emergency Medical Aid
30 September - 7 October 2007 – Langenargen/Lake Constance
This compact seminar at Montfort Castle is aimed at all doctors who either want to obtain a specialisation in emergency medical aid or are interested in further training in this area. This seminar is a compulsory element of the specialisation in emergency medical aid.

DAAD Continuing Education for Health Professionals in Developing Countries
The DAAD ("Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst“- German Academic Exchange Service) would like to call attention to financial aid available to health professionals in developing countries as part of the “Special Project Medicine” in September 2007.

Alumni of German medical faculties from developing countries will be invited to four different summer schools, with expenses covered by the DAAD. They will then attend the German Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health’s annual convention in Berlin.

At these four institutes, summer schools with diverse topics will be organised from 12 to 20 September 2007:
- **The University of Jena in cooperation with the Sophien and Hufeland Clinic in Weimar**
  Minimal invasive surgery in developing countries
- **The University of Giessen**
  Update: paediatrics and nutritional medicine
- **The University of Halle**
  Current topics concerning gynaecology and obstetrics: practical exercises and seminars
- **Kiel University of Applied Sciences**
  HIV/AIDS: innovative prevention and therapy strategies

More information at [http://www.daad.de/entwicklung/de/12.1.3.6.html](http://www.daad.de/entwicklung/de/12.1.3.6.html) or [jansen@daad.de](mailto:jansen@daad.de).
The application deadline for those interested in participating is the end of April.