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Foreword

Dear Readers,

The 2009-2010 academic year was another period of change at the University of Tübingen. It saw major restructuring, including the creation of four broad-based faculties, and other organizational changes which laid the foundations for increased interdisciplinary cooperation in research and teaching, for better connections between the University’s core research and non-university partner institutions, and for a more efficient administration. The University of Tübingen has continued to raise its national and international profile while moving toward greater translational research and strategic research partnerships – all this providing additional momentum for successful participation in the second round of the German federal and state governments’ Excellence Initiative. Outstanding achievements in the Humanities and above all in the Sciences and the Life Sciences – for instance in the establishment of partner institutions involving medical research for the federal Health Initiative – demonstrate the University’s strength in a large number of important fields. The dynamic development of internationally high-profile research not only increases the University’s attractiveness to partner institutions within Germany and abroad, it also contributed to Tübingen’s very good placing in national and international rankings.

Students at the University of Tübingen have also had an active year. Their protests drew public attention to the need for reforms in the higher education sector and for fine-tuning in the Bologna Process. In consultation with the students, University management has moved ahead with adjustments already begun in Bachelor and Master courses and with improvements to study conditions.

Yet the challenge of change could not be met without the active participation of all members of the University. For that reason I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and your willingness to cooperate. I also wish to thank the University Council and its chairman, Professor Dr. Wilhelm Rall, for constructive advice and support throughout the changes.

Professor Dr. Bernd Engler
University of Tübingen President
Tübingen: Town and Gown
Tübingen: Town and Gown

Few places are defined by their university to the same extent as Tübingen. Teaching and research take place in a vibrant atmosphere that blends the past and the future.

Since its founding more than 530 years ago, the University has played a major role in the town, the region and the state of Baden-Württemberg. Some of Europe's greatest scholars have worked here, including the astronomer Johannes Kepler, the mathematician Wilhelm Schickard, the philosophers Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and Friedrich Schelling, and the poets Friedrich Hölderlin, Eduard Mörike and Ludwig Uhland. But in spite of its long tradition, the University has always welcomed new and innovative branches of learning and research and the challenges they present. Rather than being opposites, tradition and innovation complement each other at the University of Tübingen; its international reputation in the Humanities is as good as it is in Molecular Biology and Neuroscience.

The University was born in 1477 when Eberhard the Bearded, Count of Württemberg, obtained the Pope's permission to establish an academic institution. He appointed 15 professors to teach in the Faculties of Theology, Jurisprudence, Medicine and Philosophy – the four standard subjects at that time.

Today the University has seven faculties, covering an enormous diversity of disciplines in the key areas of the Sciences and the Humanities. There are about 24,000 students – including some 3000 from all around the world. 400 professors and 2,000 academic and scientific staff are directly involved in research and teaching while a further 12,000 employees work in administration and at the University Hospitals.
The University’s teaching reflects its strong research profile, particularly in the Sciences and Life Sciences as well as in the Humanities. More than 280 courses are on offer today. The University has added innovative new options such as International Economics, Medical Technology, Geocology, Bioinformatics and Media Studies. Students can study towards Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, the German Staatsexamen, and doctoral degrees in its many PhD programs.

The University’s research has become increasingly international – and so has its teaching. Agreements with universities around the world make it possible to acquire a dual degree in selected fields of study such as Economics and Business Administration, History, Physics, Mathematics and Literature, with students spending one or more semesters at the partner institution abroad. International Master’s or PhD programs taught in English are further options.

These are already well established in the Environmental- and Geosciences, Neurology and behavioral research, in Computer Linguistics, as well as in International Economics. The University’s international reach is correspondingly impressive – some 13 percent of the student population comes from outside Germany and every year 800 students participate in exchange programs with foreign institutions.

Teaching staff and researchers are also part of a worldwide network with over 170 cooperation agreements with universities from Argentina and Australia to the United States and Venezuela. Visiting academics teach and conduct research in Tübingen, increasing the international orientation of our programs.
Status Report
The University of Tübingen underwent intense restructuring in 2010. The formation of broad-based faculties helps promote interdisciplinary work and allows quicker decision-making by a streamlined administration. The University’s push for even better performance has met with preliminary approval in the second round of the German federal and state governments’ Excellence Initiative. The will to adapt was also manifest in academic affairs, where reforms were implemented – not least because the students demanded them. These achievements are reflected in the latest national and international rankings, where the University of Tübingen is generally well placed and has moved up in a number of cases.

Broad-Based Faculties

The University of Tübingen has restructured its formerly 14 faculties and now has seven:

1. Protestant Theology
2. Catholic Theology
3. Law
4. Medicine
5. Humanities
6. Economics and Social Sciences
7. Science

The Faculties of Theology, Law and Medicine were little affected by the reforms. The new Faculties of the Humanities, Science, and Economics and Social Sciences have full-time Deans heading their administration and are better able to meet today’s high standards of accounting and the demands of the budget, personnel and labor law. A slimmed-down bureaucracy helps speed up decisions and appointments – particularly as some of the authority in such matters has shifted from the University’s central management to the Faculties.

The new, broad-based entities promote joint research across old faculty boundaries and help prevent the creation of vested interests. In the wake of the restructuring, the University of Tübingen is more open to interdisciplinary research both internally and with external partners. The new structures also offer improved services to both students and University employees.
Restructuring in 2010 also benefited the University’s performance in the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments. Researchers now work within the new, uncluttered structures – making it easier to set up joint projects with colleagues across the road, across the country and around the world.

In the second round of the Excellence Initiative – 2012 to 2017 – the University of Tübingen submitted proposals in all three funding lines, meeting with preliminary approval for its institutional strategy, two graduate schools and one excellence cluster. The proposals going for final approval are applications for graduate schools in the fields of Education (Learning, Educational Achievement, and Life Course Development) and Molecular Biology (Molecular and Developmental Cell Systems); an excellence cluster in Linguistics (The Tübingen Center for the Study of Language). In its institutional strategy paper for the third funding line (Research – Relevance – Responsibility), the University of Tübingen highlighted its many joint projects with cooperation partners. If approved, each Graduate School proposal will attract up to €3 million in funding annually, the Excellence Cluster up to €8 million; and the institutional strategy as much as €60m over five years.

The final decisions are due in June 2012 – when it will also be decided whether funding from the first round of the Excellence Initiative is to be continued for Tübingen’s existing excellence cluster, the Werner Reichardt Center for Integrative Neuroscience.

High-profile core research is the cornerstone of the University’s long-term strategy, and key parts of the projects outlined will go ahead with University backing even if funding under the current scheme is not approved.
In recent years, Germany has seen intense political debate on the integration of Muslim members of society. An important part of this has been the call for state-backed religious instruction for Muslim schoolchildren, comparable with the state-sponsored lessons in Religion for Catholic and Protestant Christians in German schools. This highlighted the need for Muslim religious teachers trained, like their Christian colleagues, at German universities.

The University of Tübingen has seized the opportunity to build on its expertise in the field with the founding of Germany’s first Center of Islamic Theology. University management consulted with Muslim associations in Germany to garner support, and was also able to point to its solid foundation in the study of Muslim cultures. The introduction of Islamic Theology represented a valuable opportunity to further develop the University’s experience in interfaith dialogue while adding to the culture and language focus of its existing Islamic Studies.

October 2010 saw the approval of funding from both the state and federal governments, the latter providing up to €4 million over five years to finance research professorships, academic staff and junior research groups. The Center of Islamic Theology is due to begin teaching its first students in the winter semester of 2011-2012 with up to six professors.
Success in the Rankings

Key international survey rates Tübingen higher

In September 2010, the University of Tübingen moved up 18 places in the QS World University Rankings to number 131 internationally and number seven in Germany. QS ranked Tübingen 67th in the Arts & Humanities and 86th in the Life Sciences. The University came in among the top 200 in the Natural Sciences (170, up 34 places) and the Social Sciences (197, up 27 places on the 2009 assessment).

That puts the University of Tübingen behind just six other German institutions: Heidelberg (placed at 51), the TU München (58), LMU Munich (66), the FU Berlin (70), Freiburg (97) and the Humboldt University, Berlin (123).

The QS World University Rankings are calculated as follows:
- 40 percent academic peer review
- 20 percent teacher-student ratio
- 20 percent frequency of citations in scientific journals per academic staff member
- ten percent international survey of employers, and
- five percent each for the proportion of international students and teachers.

Also in September 2010, the Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) published its Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities – with more good news for the University of Tübingen, which was placed at 122. Only five German institutions were rated higher: LMU Munich (44), Heidelberg (63), the TU München (91) and the FU Berlin (120).

The HEEACT ranking of scientific papers uses bibliometric methods to analyze the number of publications, the number of citations and the number of highly cited papers over the last two and the last eleven years, as well as the number of articles of the current year in high-impact journals. This data is used to assess the productivity, impact and excellence of research.

Top marks for Education and History

The German think-tank the Center for Higher Education (CHE) released new rankings of university courses in the Humanities, Psychology and Education in May 2010. The University of Tübingen's Education courses got top marks in three out of five categories and History in three of four. German Studies rated highly in two out of four categories.

The CHE assesses nearly 300 higher education institutions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands. It bases its ranking for each subject on four to five categories it considers especially important to new students. Details on courses, teaching, equipment and research are considered, as well as the results of a survey of nearly 200,000 students and the recommendations of professors.
Promoting Equality and Diversity

Tübingen’s equal opportunities program gets the thumbs-up from the DFG

The German Research Foundation, the DFG, rated the University of Tübingen’s equal opportunity measures “exemplary” on the basis of a 2009 report by the University’s Equality and Diversity Officer. The DFG called on its member institutions to submit comprehensive reports as part of the implementation of its Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality. 63 institutions of higher education complied.

The DFG introduced its Research-Oriented Standards on Gender Equality in 2008 to help German universities reach their full innovative potential by ensuring that both men and women participate at all levels. The goal is to meet these structural and staffing standards by 2013.

The University of Tübingen was able to show it had successfully established its equal opportunities plan, which is not only followed but also improved upon as new, innovative ideas are put into action. This put Tübingen in the fourth and final stage of gender-equality standards implementation – one of only twelve institutions of higher education in Germany to make the grade.
Encouraged by this result, the University of Tübingen is pushing ahead with measures to raise the proportion of women at all levels, an effort the DFG singled out for praise. The Equality and Diversity Officer reported in January 2010 that the University was well on its way to achieving targets for women in new professorships, lectureships and habilitation programs. Targets for the number of women taking their doctorates have been exceeded. It was only in the areas of junior researchers and professorships that equal opportunities measures needed to be stepped up.

New professorships increasingly go to women

The number of women professors at the University of Tübingen has been rising steadily; of the 37 professors appointed in 2009, eleven were women – almost 30 percent of new appointments. That figure was 19.4 percent in 2008, and stood at an average 15.8 percent in the preceding three years.

In 2009, three of the University’s new women professors had posts funded by the German government’s “200 women professors” program. Under the program, the University can get funding for as many as three professorships for up to five years, after which it finances the posts itself.

The professorships in question are for English Linguistics (2008 appointment), Comparative Zoology and Inorganic Chemistry. The funding is conditional on the University investing in further equality-boosting measures; in this case, a fourth professorship is planned, which is to be filled by a woman.

Female professors were also appointed in the fields of Occupational Medicine, Molecular Auditory Physiology, Empirical Education Research, Education, Literature of the 18th and 19th Centuries, Organic Chemistry, Bioarchaeology, Palaeoclimatology and Cognition Psychology.

Dual Career Couples – support for the partners of new professors

The University offers a special service to the partners of scientists and academics moving to Tübingen to take up a new post. Dual Career Couples aims to help them continue their careers in their new location by offering support and contacts.

Five to ten percent of partners seeking new work are themselves academics, and in individual cases it is possible for them to obtain part-time work at the University under the Dual Career strategy. This makes Tübingen more attractive to both German and international candidates for professorships and other senior posts – while utilizing their partners’ valuable skills.
Cutting-Edge Research
A wealth of subjects with interdisciplinary potential

The broad spectrum of subjects at the University of Tübingen not only promotes specialization; it also opens up fertile ground for interdisciplinary cooperation. Some key examples: medical and microbiology researchers have teamed up at the Interfaculty Institute of Microbiology and Infection Medicine; the Tübingen Center for Archaeology brings together excavators and paleontologists with academics specializing in cultural studies and in the analysis of ancient objects. The CIN excellence cluster in Neuroscience has attracted related institutions, such as the Tübingen branch of the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience and the Helmholtz Association's center for neurodegenerative diseases.

Pooling expertise and resources to beat infections

The Interfaculty Institute of Microbiology and Infection Medicine gets down to work

Researchers at the University of Tübingen's Biology Department have banded together with their colleagues at the University Hospitals to develop new treatments for infectious diseases, founding the Interfaculty Institute of Microbiology and Infection Medicine (IMIT). November 2010 saw the opening of this research facility unique in Germany. It is a cross-faculty institution allowing researchers from the fields of Medicine and Biology to bring their different approaches to joint research into microorganisms and their effects on humans and the environment. The focus is on infection biology, microbial physiology and antimicrobial agents. IMIT pools the expertise of four Biology professors and three professors of Medicine. Head of the new institute is Professor Ingo Autenrieth, who also runs the Medical Microbiology and Hygiene section. Also participating in this project are Professor Karl Forchhammer of the Organismic Interactions section; Professor Friedrich Götz, Microbial Genetics; Professor Rüdiger Hampp, Physiological Ecology of Plants; Professor Dominik Hartl, Clinical Infectiology and Immunology, University Children's Hospital; Professor Andreas Peschel, Molecular and Cell Microbiology, and Professor Wolfgang Wohlleben, Biotechnology. In addition, IMIT – with a scientific staff of around 100 – has no less than ten junior research groups working on various aspects of microbiology and infection medicine. The institute enables more efficient use of the established facilities and technology platforms, while stepping up the scientific exchange between Biology and Medicine.

Tübingen has long been one of Germany's key locations for bacteria research. Tübingen is home to two collaborative research centers: SFB 766 The Bacterial Cell Envelope: Structure, Function and Infection Interface and SFB/Transregio 34 Pathophysiology of Staphylococci in the Post-Genomic Era. IMIT is now reinforcing this core research in the Life Sciences. The Institute is also the key element in the University's participation in the federal government’s Health Initiative, the Center for Infection Research (DZI), raising the international profile of this important research area at the University of Tübingen.

Scientists at IMIT are examining symbiotic relationships between microorganisms and the molecular foundation of
cellular processes in bacteria. Research into antimicrobial agents focuses on actinomyces. Infection biology research centers on staphylococci, the most common cause of hospital acquired infections, as well as pathogens in the digestive tract. Another important research focus is on intestinal flora and its role in resisting infection and in the development of chronic inflammatory bowel disease.

IMIT also helps to reinforce the work being done in the fields of infection diagnostics, treatment and prevention. The Institute develops and promotes training programs for doctors, who learn to recognize infections earlier and to take the right steps straight away. The aim is to help prevent the spread of germs such as MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) and VRE (vancomycin-resistant enterococci). The University plans to set up an international Graduate School of Microbiology and Infection Biology – and to establish a Robert Koch Academy – for the further training of hospital infectiologists.

This overlap between Biology and Medicine has long been something of a blind spot – microbiologists in the field of Biology took little interest in disease-causing bacteria, while microbiologists in the field of Medicine were only interested in certain bacteria once it was shown that they led to disease. This has meant that neither side could make the most of its knowledge and insights. IMIT aims to close that gap.

Bacterial infections are the world’s most frequent cause of disease and the second-biggest killer worldwide after heart disease. In Germany alone, some 60,000 people die each year of blood poisoning, one of the most serious complications arising from infection. On the positive side, many microbes have enormous potential to synthesize products for use in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. IMIT is working to exploit that potential while developing more efficient agents to fight disease-causing microorganisms.

Golden staph research funding extended

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has approved a further €8 million in funding for the collaborative research center SFB/Transregio 34, Pathophysiology of Staphylococci in the Post-Genomic Era. This paves the way for another four years of groundbreaking research into staphylococcus aureus, or golden staph. This bacterium is the cause of many common ailments in humans and has developed resistance to a number of drugs used against it. In SFB/Transregio 34, researchers are applying functional genome research methods to analyze the bacterium’s genetic makeup in order to discover more about its cell physiology and to find better ways of combating it. With funding assured to mid-2014, Tübingen’s microbiologists, headed by Professor Friedrich Götz, will be continuing this cooperative research in association with the Universities of Greifswald, Würzburg and Münster. Tübingen’s working groups are led by Professor Andreas Peschel and Professor Christiane Wolz.
# Tübingen’s Collaborative Research Centers (SFBs)

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Funding Period</th>
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| Emergence of Meaning: The Dynamics and Adaptivity of Linguistic Structures (SFB 833) | Prof. Dr. Sigrid Beck  
English Language and Literatures | July 2009 – June 2013 |
| Understanding and Overcoming Therapy Resistance of Solid Tumors (SFB 773)     | Prof. Dr. Sebastian Wesselborg  
Dept. of Internal Medicine | July 2008 – June 2012 |
| The Bacterial Cell Envelope: Structure, Function and Infection Interface (SFB 766) | Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wohlleben  
Institute of Microbiology | July 2007 – June 2011 |
| Immunotherapy: Molecular Basis and Clinical Application (SFB 685)          | Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Rammensee  
Institute for Cell Biology | July 2005 – June 2013 |
| Recognizing, Localizing, Acting: Neurocognitive Mechanisms and their Flexibility (SFB 550) | Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Thier  
Dept. of Neurology | January 2000 – December 2009 |

# Tübingen participates in the following Transregio Collaborative Research Centers (SFB/TRs)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tübingen Coordinator</th>
<th>Funding Period</th>
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| Geometric Partial Differential Equations (SFB-TR Transregio 71)        | Prof. Dr. Reiner Schätzle  
Dept. of Mathematics | January 2009 – December 2012 |
| Pathophysiology of Staphylococci in the Post-Genomic Era (SFB-TR Transregio 34) | Prof. Dr. Friedrich Götz  
Institute of Microbiology | July 2006 – June 2014 |
| Neutrinos and Beyond – Weakly Interacting Particles in Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology (SFB-TR Transregio 27) | Prof. Dr. Josef Jochum  
Institute of Physics | January 2007 – December 2010 |
| Control of Quantum Correlations in Tailored Matter (SFB-TR Transregio 21) | Prof. Dr. Reinhold Kleiner  
Institute of Physics | July 2005 – June 2013 |
| Inflammatory Cardiomyopathy – Molecular Pathogenesis and Therapy (SFB-TR 19) | Prof. Dr. Reinhard Kandolf  
Department of Pathology | July 2004 – June 2012 |
| Gravitational Wave Astronomy: Methods – Sources – Observation (SFB-TR 7) | Prof. Kostas Kokkotas, Ph. D.  
Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics | January 2003 – December 2014 |
The University of Tübingen offers more comprehensive archaeological studies than any other institution in Germany, spanning human development from its nascence to the modern era. Tübingen has long had an excellent reputation in this discipline – and remarkable research by University archaeologists has attracted widespread attention in recent years.

The Tübingen Center for Archaeology (TZA) was founded in July 2010 to combine research in the fields of Archaeology and Paleontology. The TZA is an interfaculty body, bringing together the work of the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (IANES), the institutes of Classical Archaeology, Archaeological Sciences and Prehistory and Medieval Archaeology. The TZA will also facilitate cooperation with the faculties of Theology and Medicine as well as with other major disciplines in the Sciences and Humanities.

Scientists at the Center for Scientific Archaeology have been carrying out analyses on archaeological finds since 2007, forming a basis for further interdisciplinary cooperation. Within the TZA, they work with academics specializing in the cultural aspects of Archaeology, comprehensively enriching this field at the University of Tübingen.

The TZA also works closely with the Senckenberg Nature Research Society in Frankfurt am Main. Researchers in Frankfurt and Tübingen are collaborating on the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities’ long-term project “The Role of Culture in Early Expansions of Humans”, while the Senckenberg Nature Research Society provides financial support for three professorships plus research assistants at the University of Tübingen. Those chairs are held by early prehistory specialist Nicholas Conard, palaeoanthropologist Katerina Harvati-Papatheodorou and the palaeoclimatologist Madelaine Böhme. The Senckenberg Nature Research Society aims to strengthen research into human evolution and hopes to make its support for the three professorships permanent from 2013.

The Carl Zeiss Foundation has sponsored two professorships in the field of Geo- and Environmental Archaeology – another important addition to the TZA. The Foundation is financing these chairs for four years, with two years of University financing to follow. The Carl Zeiss professorships are held by the palaeogeneticist Johannes Krause, and by Christopher Miller, a geoarchaeologist.
The new Professor of Palaeoanthropology reads the bones of ancient hominins for information about human evolution

Today, there is only one type of human on Earth: Homo sapiens. Yet our picture of the tree of man is far from complete. On which branch do we find ourselves, and how close is it to the many other limbs? The skulls and bones of earlier hominins provide some clues. Paleoanthropologist Katerina Harvati-Papatheodorou of the Institute for Prehistory and Medieval Archaeology specializes in getting as much information as possible from every bone and fragment. Her task is to trace evolutionary history and the lifestyles of early species, as well as determining how modern man spread across the face of the Earth. “The remarkable thing about Tübingen is that important finds come from here in the region but research is being carried out in many areas around the world, covering a very broad spectrum,” says Katerina Harvati.

Archaeology shows us what people in the past built and made, she says. “The bones are the people themselves, and they are a part of that past. For that reason, Paleoarchaeology definitely belongs within the new Tübingen Center for Archaeology,” says Harvati.

In February 2010, Harvati was made a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Diego, California. AAAS, a non-profit organization which publishes the journal Science, bestowed the honor in recognition of Harvati’s contribution to paleoanthropological research in the development and spread of three-dimensional morphometrics. Professor Harvati’s new approach to the analysis of shape and structure adds a further dimension to research in Tübingen. Soon a new, high-resolution CT scanner will provide 3-D images of bones and other finds – so that researchers can find out more about them without having to damage priceless ancient material. “The University of Tübingen will then be one of the top five worldwide with this kind of high-tech scanner and the latest technology,” says Harvati.

Researchers will be able to analyze the morphology of a bone inside and out. “Since bones function as the anchor for muscles, we can deduce how an animal usually moved from the thickness of its bones – whether it walked or climbed, for instance,” Harvati explains. The Greek-born paleoanthropologist is working on fossils from excavations in southern Germany, from the University’s paleoanthropological collection, as well as on human remains from the royal palace at Qatna, Syria, and human fossils from Paleolithic sites in Greece. She is planning a joint project with the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart. And she is also a Professor at the Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Paleoenology (HEP), part of the Frankfurt-based Senckenberg Nature Research Society. “The duality of my professorship creates a close link with the important research and the collections at the Senckenberg center,” Harvati explains.

When asked what she thought of being the first woman professor in the University of Tübingen’s Geoscience Faculty, Harvati pointed out that there is now another – Madelaine Böhme, professor of Terrestrial Palaeoclimatology since December 2009. Böhme is also curator of the Palaeontological Museum, and is, like Harvati, affiliated with the HEP.

Harvati began her career in New York, at Columbia University and at the Museum of Natural History. There are many more women professors in the US: “Things here are going in the right direction,” she points out, adding that it was usually only women who faced the choice between children and a career. “It is an artificial problem. Good childcare and longer care at school would make women’s careers much easier.” She speaks as the mother of two primary school age girls. From 2004 to 2009, Harvati carried out her research at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig before taking up her professorship in Tübingen. She and her family are happy here: “The quality of life is very high, and there is very little I miss, even though the town is quite small. On top of that, there are excellent students here.”
Portrait: Johannes Krause

Putting together millions of tiny DNA pieces to solve the puzzles of human evolution

Johannes Krause is best known for his research into Neanderthal genetics under Professor Svante Pääbo at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. Krause, who has been at the Tübingen Center for Archaeology since August 2010, was part of the team that sequenced the entire Neanderthal genome. In doing so, they discovered that non-Africans have a small percentage of Neanderthal genes, indicating that modern humans interbred with Neanderthals after leaving their evolutionary home in Africa.

Krause, 30, received a key award – the Tübingen Förderpreis für Ältere Urgeschichte und Quartärökologie – for his doctoral thesis in 2010. Now he has discovered a previously unknown hominin. “In recent years as a palaeogeneticist, I have plucked a lot of the low-hanging fruit,” he says. Palaeogenetics is a relatively new field of research, one that holds sensational new revelations.

“We have to develop completely new processes to analyze fossil DNA because, unlike fresh DNA, it has disintegrated into tiny little pieces,” says Krause. He is concerned that palaeogenetics is expanding fast but without any established quality standards. “Even very small errors can lead to completely wrong results,” he says. Krause is now focusing on the analysis of human fossil remains, such as those of Cro-Magnon man. “Among modern humans, they were more or less the first Europeans… It’s only now that we can make a closer genetic analysis of them, because the old DNA is very hard to separate from DNA contamination caused by people in modern times touching the finds.” He wants to test the theory that the earliest Europeans were driven out by a new wave of modern humans from the Middle East, who practiced agriculture.

Krause says that Tübingen is a particularly good place for a palaeogenetic laboratory. “There’s a lot of input from the archaeologists here. Without them, I would not have any samples, but using palaeogenetics I can fill some of the gaps in their chains of evidence,” he says, adding he also has links with the Institute of Human Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine.

Krause will also be teaching at the University of Tübingen, a task he views philosophically: “It is a challenge for someone who is strongly specialized in his subject. But it’s good that you have to closely re-examine your own research for it.” Krause himself fell in love with paleontology at the age of seven, reading dinosaur books and searching for fossils around his home district of Eichsfeld in the state of Thuringia. “On top of that, the man who discovered the Neanderthal, Johann Carl Fuhlrott, was from the same town as me, Leinefelde. He was something of a local hero.” Krause first studied Biochemistry in Leipzig and in Cork, Ireland: “It was pure chance that I ended up in Palaeontology. But it was a lucky chance.”
Excavations in Syria uncover a treasure trove of exquisite objects

In 2009, Tübingen archaeologists working with their Syrian colleagues discovered a crypt underneath the palace in Qatna, Syria. The following year, careful excavations coordinated by Professor Peter Pfälzner of the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (IANES) and Hikmet Awad of the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums revealed hundreds of objects amid the remains of more than 100 people. There was jewelry of gold and precious stones, alabaster vessels, carved ivory, figurines, seals and a range of pottery. Many of the objects came from Egypt. They included a glazed frit hippopotamus statuette, a tiny sphinx of carnelian, a cup of transparent black obsidian set with gold, and many ointment pots made of calcite alabaster. Along with the pottery finds, a seal with the inscription of Ahmes Nefertari (around 1560 BC), mother of King Amenhotep I, helps archaeologists date the period in which the crypt was in use. The finds also provide evidence of the close ties between Qatna and Egypt in the middle of the second millennium before Christ, in the late Hyksos period and at the start of the New Kingdom.

The skeletons of what appear to be more than 100 people were laid out in groups; they were originally in wooden coffins, which had mostly disintegrated. Archaeologists believe the dead were members of the extended royal family of Qatna.

In the Middle and Late Bronze Age, Qatna was one of the most powerful kingdoms in the region. It reached its zenith between 1800 and 1600 BC and existed until its destruction by the Hittites around 1340 BC.

The Bronze Age palace of Qatna was opened to the public in September 2010. Archaeologists from the University of Tübingen and the University of Udine, Italy, have been working with archaeologists from the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Qatna since 1999. Restoration work at the palace began in 2005, and the first phase is now complete. The palace’s well house is now protected by a steel-framed roof of transparent polycarbonate sheeting donated by the Bayer corporation and erected with funding from the German Foreign Ministry.

The well house dates from the Middle Bronze Age, around 1700 BC. It was an impressive monumental structure, which was accessible via a wide staircase of 80 basalt steps. It is a unique monument of ancient Near Eastern architecture and was a primary focus of the University of Tübingen restoration project in Qatna.
Excavations in 2010 redraw the map of Bronze Age Troia

Excavations in Troia, western Turkey, in 2010 focused on mapping the Late Bronze Age phase of the city. Archaeologists from the University of Tübingen’s Prehistory Institute, headed by Professor Ernst Pernicka, found that a large area outside the citadel excavated by Heinrich Schliemann was inhabited for much longer than previously realized. The foundations of a Bronze Age gateway partially excavated in 2009 have now been fully revealed.

The archaeologists used geophysical methods, taking samples with special drills to find the location of part of the lower town’s Bronze Age defenses over a distance of about one kilometer. It consisted of a 4m-wide trench cut into the rock. Core samples also showed that the Bronze Age settlement extends approximately 200m east of the citadel. Further to the east, the archaeologists found another trench, significantly wider and deeper than those discovered before. Further work is needed to determine the age of this structure.

The gateway – dating to before 1300 BC – in the southwest of the lower town is more than 300m from the walls of the citadel. Five meters wide, it is much narrower than the south gate previously excavated. Bronze Age layers were evident all around the gateway. Foundations, an oven, storage pits, paths and other finds demonstrate that the area was settled from around 1700 BC, and was inhabited until around 1000 BC. This evidence of permanent settlement over such a long period so far from the citadel shows that the city was much bigger than previously realized.
DNA test identifies Tutankhamun’s parents

The Pharaoh Tutankhamun was born in 1341 BC and died at the age of 19. His tomb was discovered in 1922. There has been much speculation as to who his parents were. A team of researchers from Germany, Italy and Egypt established their own DNA laboratory in Cairo, where they carried out two years of research on 16 mummies. The work was spearheaded by the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC) and Dr. Carsten Pusch, of the University of Tübingen’s Institute of Anthropology and Human Genetics. The genetic analyses revealed that Tutankhamun’s father was the pharaoh Echnaton, whose mummified body was found in grave KV 55 in the Kings’ Valley. His mother is known only as the younger lady, the mummy from grave KV 35, who was found with another, older, female mummy. The researchers are now trying to establish whether the “younger lady” was the famous Queen Nefertiti.

Dr. Pusch and his team took samples from inside the mummified bones, extracted the DNA and were able to map out the ancient Egyptians’ genetic fingerprints. The mummification process appears to have preserved the more than 3000 year old DNA relatively well. The comprehensive genetic, forensic and radiological analyses, made possible by a Discovery Channel project under the auspices of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, also revealed details of Tutankhamun’s medical history. The boy pharaoh appears to have suffered from avascular necrosis in his left foot, where a poor blood supply led to bone degradation. He also had malaria tropica, the most severe form of malaria.
Healthy growth at the Center for Integrative Neuroscience excellence cluster

The University of Tübingen’s excellence cluster, the Center for Integrative Neuroscience (CIN), was expanded in 2010. The number of members at the Center has risen from 48 at its founding in 2008 to 62. The Center has four new professorships for Matthias Bethge, Thomas Euler, Martin Giese and Cornelius Schwarz, and 13 junior research groups. Close cooperation with the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics made it possible to win Klaus Scheffler as Professor of Neuroimaging and Magnetic Resonance Physics, giving CIN a full complement of scientists to head its various areas of research, including the senior professorship for Hans-Ulrich Schnitzler, created in 2009. CIN’s goal of filling 30 percent of its research posts with women was also achieved.

In the first few years, CIN focused on recruiting and setting up the new junior research groups; then in 2009 and 2010, the Center got its doctoral students and technical assistants. Further professorships and junior research groups are to be established in the future.

Scientists at CIN make up a doctoral training network, which aims to examine the foundations of Neuroscience from the genetic fundamentals to the processing of information in neuronal networks. Their work is meant to directly benefit patients with impaired movement, memory and perception. A better understanding of brain functions can also lead to new technical applications to help such patients. CIN’s innovative therapies in the field of rehabilitation technology are developed in interdisciplinary collaboration with engineers, computer scientists, neurologists and psychotherapists. Integrative Neuroscience also means incorporating knowledge from the Humanities. For that reason, CIN has since 2009 been supporting research-oriented training, including an interdisciplinary doctoral training network in which PhD students from Philosophy and Neuroscience work on joint projects.

CIN research areas:
- Molecular Neuroscience
- Sensory Systems
- Neurophysiology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Clinical Neuroscience
- Neuroprosthetics
- Brain Imaging
- Brain-inspired Applications
- Theoretical Neuroscience
- Cognition and the Humanities

CIN has quality assurance committees ensuring that facilities are used optimally and that interdisciplinary cooperation is running smoothly, coordinating work with the University’s Forum Scientarium and the German Studies Institute on interdisciplinary symposia and summer academies. CIN’s Board for the Advancement of Women offers support for its female staff and assists in organizing child care. Other committees work to optimize PhD training at CIN and to extend the Center’s contacts with industry and potential investors in the ideas and technology it produces.

A new €20 million building housing CIN and several departments of the neighboring Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research (HiH) is due to be completed in Tübingen by mid-2011.

Further details at: www.cin.uni-tuebingen.de
€6.5 million for two new areas of brain research

The Hertie Foundation has increased its support for neurological research at the University of Tübingen with a further €6.5 million for the Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research over the next four years. The Foundation has invested around €30 million in the HIH since its establishment in 2001. The HIH is maintained jointly by the Hertie Foundation, the University Hospitals and the University.

In 2007, working groups at the HIH became part of the Center for Integrative Neuroscience (CIN) – a German government excellence cluster project. And the HIH has been a partner in the DZNE, the German government’s research initiative into neurodegenerative diseases, since 2009. The DZNE has an annual budget of €66 million to investigate diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s; it links Tübingen with other outstanding neuroscientific research institutions across Germany.

The latest donations are helping establish two new research divisions at the HIH, one of which, Neurology and Epileptology, headed by Professor Holger Lerche, started work in October 2009. Other departments include General Neurology, Neurodegenerative Diseases, Cognitive Neurology and Cellular Neurology. The HIH works in collaboration with the University Hospitals, linking research with practical applications. Key areas of its research focus on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, neurocognitive disorders like those resulting from strokes, and the mechanisms of autoimmune diseases in the nervous system.

The HIH has 15 full professors and more than 230 staff in 25 working groups.

Further details at: www.hih-tuebingen.de

Seeing is believing: The Bernstein Center investigates sensory perception

Scientists working at Tübingen’s new Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience are seeking to discover how the human brain reconciles information provided by the senses with the expectations arising from experience. The Center incorporates researchers from Tübingen’s Center for Integrative Neurosciences (CIN), Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research (HIH) and Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics. It has a budget of around eight million euros provided by the German government, and is part of a nationwide network of centers set up in 2004, incorporating some 200 working groups at 20 locations. Professor Matthias Bethge coordinates the Tübingen Center.

The focus is on visual perception; but researchers at the Center also aim to find out how all the body’s senses work together to produce a realistic image of its surroundings. “Perpetual interference” is the name scientists give to the brain’s ability to combine sensory information with prior knowledge; the researchers are using new techniques to examine the complex interaction of groups of brain cells as they process the information and filter out uncertain or irrelevant details from the incoming visual signals.

New data analyses are helping researchers at the Bernstein Center to decipher fundamental principles of neuronal coding and of the interference process. It’s hoped this work will open up new possibilities in the field of artificial vision.
Ancient Egypt: Reading the libraries of stone

Tübingen Professor of Egyptology Christian Leitz heads the University’s work on a new project to catalogue, analyze and interpret Ancient Egyptian writings. “The Temple as a Canon of Egypt’s Religious Literature” is a long-term project begun in 2010 and coordinated by the Heidelberg Academy of the Sciences and Humanities. Egyptologists are aiming to record the vast number of inscriptions on Egyptian temples, both to preserve the information and to make it available for academic research.

Temple writings may be seen as a coherent corpus despite their chronological and geographical diversity. And although they are very important to our knowledge of ancient Egyptian religious thinking, this vast collection of texts is one of the most neglected areas in Egyptology.

After Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 332 BC his former general Ptolemy founded a new dynasty in 306 BC which ruled Egypt for some 300 years. The Ptolemies began a major building program which the Roman emperors continued well into the 2nd century BC. The priests, scribes and sculptors decorated temple walls with inscriptions on an unprecedented scale. These texts provide a wealth of insights into daily rituals and religious festivals, religious topography and mythology.

A majority of these buildings is already lost to us, but more than 10,000 pages of hieroglyphic texts from those remaining have already been published – a library carved in stone. Unlike papyrus texts which turn up at auctions, the stone inscriptions come from a fixed place and can be read in context, making them a valuable source of information.

The project aims to classify the texts according to form, motif, structure and content and to compile a database for further research. Texts will be analyzed with regard to their original location to determine their function, their role in the tradition of Egypt’s religious literature, and the philological data they provide. Researchers will also seek to interpret the texts to garner information on religious traditions and the differences between various cult centers.
Religious Education: Seeking interfaith dialogue among the very young

Religious education specialists Professor Albert Biesinger of the Faculty of Catholic Theology and Professor Friedrich Schweitzer of the Faculty of Protestant Theology continued their more than ten-year partnership in joint research with a project on interfaith education in kindergartens. They presented their findings in January 2010 at an international interdisciplinary symposium on children’s perception of religious difference. Their study showed that children as young as five and six are aware of religious differences – and pointed out how helpful early religious education can be in preventing the development of prejudices in the young.

The professors’ research focused on the religious plurality in Germany's kindergartens, where around one-third of children are of non-German parentage, and 20-25 percent of children are Muslim. A countrywide survey supported by the Leibnitz Institute for the Social Sciences asked: What challenges do kindergarten teachers see? What opportunities for interreligious dialogue do they recognize and seize? What help do they need in order to support educational processes effectively?

The study also looked at parents, what they expect kindergartens to do in the way of religious education, and what they had experienced. It culminated with a close look at what was happening at selected institutions, documenting their experience for the benefit of other kindergartens.

Professor Biesinger and Professor Schweitzer were assisted in their work by Professor Gunter Klosinski from the Department of Child Psychology and Professor Hans-Jürgen Kerner from the Institute of Criminology. The project was supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the state of Baden-Württemberg and the Stiftung Ravensburger Verlag foundation.

Immunology: Tailoring treatments for liver cancer

Immunology researchers at the University of Tübingen are developing the world’s first vaccine against cancer of the liver. Up to now, follow-up treatment to the surgical removal of liver tumors – such as chemotherapy – has not proven very successful in ensuring that the tumors do not come back. Now, headed by Professor Hans-Georg Rammensee, scientists at the Interfaculty Institute for Cell Biology (IFIZ) have come up with a new approach. Working in cooperation
Liver cancer mutations appear specifically in the protein molecules known as peptides. The mutations are unique to each patient. Until recently, it was considered impossible to isolate the mutated peptides in individual patients for treatment purposes.

The Tübingen researchers now aim to identify the individual mutations and to use them as antigens, making it possible to create a vaccine specific to each tumor. The mutated peptides in each patient’s cancer cells are reproduced and used to vaccinate the patient – so that his or her immune system is able to recognize the cancer cells and attack them.

The German government is supporting this development of a vaccine against liver cancer with more than one million euros in funding. Clinical trials are to begin in the second half of 2012. The individualized production of modern biological treatments must meet comprehensive qualitative and legal standards. For the newly-developed vaccine against liver cancer to be tested on patients, it must be produced under cleanroom conditions, something that cannot be done in conventional University laboratories.

To this end, the University Hospitals’ Good Manufacturing Practice building was opened on July 16, 2010. The GMP center will allow researchers to produce antibodies and vaccines according to EU guidelines, making Tübingen the first university in Germany able to make the highest-standard treatments based on peptides and antibodies for clinical trials. This translational research, which allows a fast and effective progression from pre-clinical development to production and the first clinical studies, is a special strength of the University of Tübingen and its hospitals.

Cancer cells have mutations that make them different from normal cells. The immune system is able to recognize these mutations, but in most cases there is little or no immune response, because cancer cells can protect themselves from the body’s immune system in a number of ways.

Chemistry: New materials for organic light emitting diodes

The German government is funding two groups at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry for their part in a major project: “New materials for OLEDs from solutions (NEMO).” Professor Hermann Mayer und Professor Lars Wesemann are working on new emitting systems made from metal cluster compounds.

OLEDs are used in the display screens of electronic gadgets such as cellphones and digital cameras. Using ultra-thin luminescent layers, OLED technology will make it possible to produce energy-efficient, large-area lighting surfaces. OLEDs consist of organic semiconducting polymers or small molecules, which light up in an electrical field. The displays can be viewed from a wide angle and use less electricity than conventional screens.

But large-surface OLED applications require new materials to allow them to be produced in a simple, cheap printing process. OLEDs also need to extend their useful life and improve their response time.

The Tübingen working groups have a budget of €1.1m over three years to investigate the relationship between the dimeric, trimeric and multinuclear metal complexes in which there are metal-metal interactions and their photo-physical qualities. This information forms the basis for identifying conductive structures with which to develop triplet emitters that use metal-metal interaction. These new materials in OLEDs can help save significant amounts of energy in the long term.
University schemes help postdocs start a career

A successful doctoral thesis may be the prerequisite for a fast track into an academic career, but it is by no means a guarantee. A narrow focus on one subject and a lack of experience in attracting funding often make it difficult to build on initial academic success with specialized research. The University of Tübingen seeks to help new PhDs in this important phase with a number of services and support programs.

Project funding for young researchers: New postdocs from any discipline can apply for funding of up to €35,000, usually for one year. In 2010 nine projects were funded after being assessed by the Commission on Research.

Research Seed Capital Program (RiSC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts Baden-Württemberg: Young researchers with outstanding innovative ideas may apply for up to €100,000 in funding if co-financed by the Ministry. Two projects were assessed by the Ministry and by the Commission on Research in 2010. Both were financed under the RISC program.

Junior Research Group Leaders: In the course of structural changes at the University of Tübingen and the increase in funding for young researchers, two Junior Research Group Leader positions were advertised in 2010. They were available to any discipline and attracted a large number of applications.

The University’s Career Service offers special counseling for students planning an academic career. Both in group coaching and one-to-one sessions, the focus is on personal goals as well as individual ability – and how these can be combined in an academic career.

In cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce (IHK), the University also offers advice to postdoctoral students making the transition to professional independence and founding their own companies. The IHK-Campus-Start-up program helps with information- and technology-based startups in its “Junge Innovatoren,” “Exist-Gründerstipendium” and “Exist-Forschungstransfer” funding programs.

Erasmus mundus: A PhD program embracing the world’s cultures

The University’s Modern Languages department and institute of Empirical Cultural Studies in September 2010 embarked on a completely new form of joint research and PhD promotion. The program, Cultural Studies in Literary Interzones, is financed by the European Union and is the first of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate Programs (EMJD) to be approved due to its innovative international networking in the Humanities.

Tübingen is one of five universities at which a degree may be obtained under the program. It is coordinated by the University of Bergamo, Italy. Also participating are Via Domitia University Perpignan, Federal Fluminense University Rio de Janeiro and Jawaharlal Neru University, New Delhi.

An additional eleven institutions in France, Spain, the US, Argentina, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Australia and Switzerland are associated with the project.

The program runs for eight years in total. For the first five years, ten PhD students are to be admitted annually, each on a three-year scholarship. Their theses will define and examine the “interzones” in the international exchange of literature, culture and media, employing a variety of approaches. The program aims to promote Humanities research with an international angle in a dynamic, polycentric and cosmopolitan research environment, preparing outstanding young researchers to become globally active academics in various fields – such as comparative literature and cultural studies, or as consultants to branches of industry with an interest in global cultural phenomena.
The doctoral students will spend the six semesters of the program at three or four different universities – the first semester at the University of Bergamo, and subsequent semesters at the two universities that will bestow the academic degree, as well as one half-year at one of the 16 associated institutions.

Further details at: www.mundusphd-interzones.eu

Tübingen-Dundee joint research into tumors and diabetes: DFG gives a further €3.2 million

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has extended funding for the International Research Training Group Tübingen/Dundee: The PI3K Pathway in Tumor Growth and Diabetes (GRK 1302). The DFG’s additional funding of some €3.2 million will extend the project by four and a half years to April 2015.

This international research training group aims to find out more about the role played by phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase (PI3K) in the early development of tumors and diabetes. PI3K regulates various processes in human cells, such as the death and disposal of old or damaged cells, as well as cell metabolism and movement. Alterations in this pathway can lead to the formation of tumors. PI3K also influences insulin production in the pancreas, and with it, the development of type 2 diabetes. The international research training group is investigating these complex processes with the joint knowledge and experience of working groups from the faculties of Medicine and Science, encompassing the fields of Biochemistry, Endocrinology, Oncology, Pharmacology, Physiology and Cell Biology.

This program offers doctoral students and their supervisors the special advantage of working with their partners at the University of Dundee in Scotland. Along with their comprehensive doctoral training, the students get the opportunity to work in the Dundee laboratories on a six-month exchange. Seven doctoral students have already successfully completed the exchange. The training group’s second funding phase, which began in October 2010, comprises eleven projects in total and foresees the qualification of twelve doctoral students.

Further information at: www.uni-tuebingen.de/dundee.ac.uk-PI3K

DFG research training groups

The German Research Foundation (DFG) funds research training groups for up to nine years to qualify doctoral students in programs focusing on key areas of investigation. The DFG made €1.9 million available to research training groups at the University of Tübingen in 2009. €1.1 million of that was paid out in scholarships to some 90 doctoral students. The international research training group Tübingen/Dundee: The PI3K Pathway in Tumor Growth and Diabetes (GRK 1302) received a guarantee of extended funding to April 2015 (see previous item).
A successful conclusion to a PhD network incorporating the Sciences and the Humanities

The doctoral training network, The Geology and History of Mining in Wiesloch (Baden) from Roman to Modern Times, wound up in September 2010. Three professors - Gregor Markl of the Geoscience Institute, Ernst Pernicka from the Institute for Prehistory and Medieval Archaeology, and Sönke Lorenz of the Institut für Geschichtliche Landeskunde und Historische Hilfswissenschaften – joined forces, bringing in four PhD students to investigate the silver, lead and zinc deposits in Wiesloch, outside Heidelberg. Their research combined scientific, archaeological and historical methods. The Wiesloch deposits were of major importance in the Middle Ages, and in the ninth century may have been the first in Germany to have been used for large-scale silver mining by the Carolingians.

A comprehensive understanding of mining in Wiesloch rests on four main pillars, each of which was investigated in a doctoral thesis:

- The genesis of the deposits: Katharina Pfaff investigated which ores were present.
- Smelting techniques: how the ores were processed to get silver was the focus of Florian Ströbele’s thesis.
- The numismatics: Stefan Kötz examined which coins were minted in the region and looked at their chemical composition to determine if the metal came from Wiesloch.
- Mining history: Joachim Jehn wrote his thesis on when and how mining was carried out and what sources are available for this research.

PhD networks

Doctoral training networks at the University of Tübingen are generally formed by three or four professors from different disciplines, whose PhD students investigate a given area from different perspectives, or work directly together applying common methods. The networks consist of up to seven doctoral students, each of whom receives a postgraduate scholarship from the state of Baden-Württemberg. The purpose of these PhD networks is to encourage a sharing of approaches and information between their members and if possible to form the basis for a long-term project. The first PhD networks began work according to the “Tübingen model” in 2007; five of them had finished by September 2010.
The linking-up of these four theses within the framework of a doctoral training network made each participant aware of the particular qualities and requirements of the other disciplines involved.

The interdisciplinary cooperation was not only fruitful, it was key to the network’s success. The participants attended an international mining conference in Montafon, Austria, and went on an excursion to Austria’s famous medieval mining area of Schwaz – this helped them to fit their own work into Europe’s medieval mining history. International conferences were an important forum for the presentation of the network’s results and took Katharina Pfaff to the US Geological Survey in Colorado to carry out further research.

PhD Networks

In the Humanities

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual History – as illustrated by the Early Modern Period</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Christoph Schwöbel</td>
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<td>East and West 400–600: The drifting apart of two parts of the Imperium Romanum in Late Antiquity and the Early Medieval Period: causes, processes, consequences</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Mischa Meier History Department</td>
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<td>Dimensions of Ambiguity</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Matthias Bauer English Language and Literatures</td>
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<td>Differentiation – exclusion – transgression: Gender as a process and a consequence of boundaries</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hotz-Davies English Language and Literatures</td>
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<td>Threatened orders, the perception of threats and lasting counterstrategies from ancient times to the present</td>
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<td>Icons – Leading figures. An analysis of the establishment processes of cultural norms</td>
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In the Humanities and Sciences

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<td>PD Dr. Carsten Pusch Institute of Human Genetics</td>
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<td>Symbols of the Dead: Archaeological, scientific, and religious historical research on sepulchral and memorial contexts in the Ancient Near East</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies</td>
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<td>The Geology and History of Mining in Wiesloch (Baden) from Roman to Modern Times</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Gregor Markl Geoscience Institute</td>
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<td>Insights into Bacterial and Molecular Interaction</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Thomas Chassé Institute of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry</td>
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<td>Plant sensor histidine kinases: structure, intracellular dynamics and function</td>
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<td>Identification and Validation of Pharmaceuticals Targets</td>
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<td>Function and Pathophysiology of the Sensory Cells in the Inner Ear</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Marlies Knipper Tübingen Hearing Research Center</td>
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Third-Party Funding

External funding up 15 percent

Third-party funding for University of Tübingen projects rose €16 million in 2009 to a total of €120.1 million. Grants for Medicine jumped by nearly €18.2 million. The Humanities saw a rise of €133,000; while the Sciences took in some €2.34 million less in external funding than in the previous year.

### Third-Party Funding

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<th>Faculty</th>
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<td>4,743,524</td>
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<td>Collaborative Research Centers</td>
<td>20,318,160</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third-Party Funding 2000 – 2009, € m

- **University**
- **Medicine**

- **New grants**
- **Effective income excluding collaborative research centers**
- **Effective income including collaborative research centers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New grants</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>23,945</td>
<td>14,525</td>
<td>14,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>28,166</td>
<td>18,127</td>
<td>13,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>31,814</td>
<td>18,600</td>
<td>15,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>34,933</td>
<td>18,960</td>
<td>15,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>37,757</td>
<td>41,113</td>
<td>43,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>36,392</td>
<td>44,228</td>
<td>46,131</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>41,278</td>
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<td>79,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>44,258</td>
<td>79,828</td>
<td>79,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>47,283</td>
<td>79,188</td>
<td>78,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>45,275</td>
<td>78,962</td>
<td>74,780</td>
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Third-Party Funding attracted by the Sciences, Humanities and Medicine, 2000 - 2009, € m

Third-Party Funding: Sources 2000 - 2009, € m

- DFG 37.6%
- Foundations, donations etc. 20.8%
- Federal govt. 16.9%
- Business 13.3%
- EU 10.7%
- State govt. 0.7%
Emeritus Professor Josef van Ess received the WOCMES Award for his life’s work in July at the organization’s conference in Barcelona. Van Ess says it was pure chance that he took up Oriental and Islamic Studies. “In the confusion following the Second World War I didn’t go to high school until I was 15. Then I finished school in four years,” he says. At that age, he was able to learn languages effortlessly – English, French, Spanish, Dutch and Latin. He also taught himself Greek. And then he picked up a book of Arabic grammar – which he learned so thoroughly that he was admitted directly to the second semester of Oriental Studies at the University of Bonn.

He took up Islamic Studies, and that required more languages – Persian and Turkish – then he tried his hand at Semitic Studies, which meant learning Hebrew, Aramaic and Ethiopian.

“They were proud of me in these subjects, because only a few ever made it,” says van Ess. “We rather looked down on the German Studies students – they only needed their mother tongue.”

The few all-rounders in Oriental Studies back then had a huge area of study all to themselves, van Ess says. He adds that, unlike today, it wasn’t very important to speak exotic languages or to travel to the places one studied. Van Ess became a Professor of Islamic Studies and Semitic Languages at the University of Tübingen in 1968 and remained there until becoming an emeritus in 1999.

He turned down chairs at Princeton, Harvard, Los Angeles, Oxford and Bonn. He devoted himself to the study of Islamic theology and cultural history, publishing a comprehensive history of early Islam. “I was interested in Islamic theology not as a matter of religious faith, but as a concept to be seen in its historical context,” says van Ess.

WOCMES honored van Ess as “the world’s most distinguished scholar of classical kalam, the Muslim theology that was the precursor to, and foundation for, modern Islam.” Van Ess also holds the Orden pour le mérite für Wissenschaften und Künste, “an old German honor unknown abroad,” as he puts it, and he holds Academies of Sciences and Humanities membership, as well as several honorary doctorates.

Van Ess explains that a geographer set up the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies in 2000, managing to get participants from many countries and almost every
branch of academia involved with the Middle East. The prize is intended to give the Congress a little glamour. Awarded in 2010 for the third time, it was shared between van Ess and Professor Roger Owen of Harvard University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Van Ess sees himself as a traditional scholar of languages and cultures. He welcomes the honor for his field – which he himself describes as old-fashioned Islamic Studies – adding: “It gives me hope that there will be no more jobs lost, and that young researchers will get their chance.”
Academic Developments
Expansion and Reform

The number of students at the University of Tübingen has jumped, and is due to rise further. The University has been preparing for the increase for several years, raising the capacity for new students and expanding core areas in Media Studies, Pharmaceutics, Economics and Medical Technology. The University was also quick to respond to the demands of protesting students in 2009 and 2010, introducing measures such as the four-year Bachelor program, which allows students greater freedom in planning their studies.

The University of Tübingen – Bigger and Better Than Ever

Sharp rise in student numbers

The winter semester 2009/10 saw a record number of students studying in Tübingen. A total of 24,473 students were enrolled at the University, 5.4 percent more than at the same time the previous year. This followed a rise of 4.7 percent in the preceding summer semester.

The proportion of female students continues to rise; in 2010 it stood at 59 percent overall, and was more than 60 percent of first-years. The proportion of international students has, however, been falling, to around 13 percent in 2010.

The increase in freshmen is one of the biggest factors involved in the overall jump in student numbers, with 3,823 first-years enrolling for the winter semester 2009/10 – 22 percent more than in the previous year. Another factor is the easing of restrictions on enrolling for a number of major subjects, such as teacher-training courses in German, English and Spanish as well as the Sociology bachelor’s course.

State plan gets more young people studying

The state of Baden-Württemberg aims to create 20,000 new places at universities and other institutions of higher education by 2012. The Hochschule 2012 program was set up to meet two demands – that of the labor market, which needs more qualified workers, and that of the exceptionally large number of teenagers due to finish school in Baden-Württemberg in 2012.

The University of Tübingen has increased its capacity for students in a number of subjects and courses and has engaged additional professors with Hochschule 2012 funding.
Media Studies: Growing in size and social relevance

Media Studies is one area that is benefitting most from the Hochschule 2012 expansion. Many students aim for a career in the media, making Media Studies one of the most popular courses. In 2009, there were eight applicants for each place in the course. The University has moved to meet the need for greater capacity, with 60 additional places already added in Media Studies and 20 in Media and Computer Science, and 30 more Media Studies places to come at the end of 2011.

Media Studies students in Tübingen may obtain the following degrees:

- Master of Media Studies (graduate entry)
- Bachelor of Media Studies – Media Practice (major)
- Bachelor of Media Studies (minor)

Three additional professorships have been approved: Bernhard Pörksen for Print and Online Media and Guido Zurstiege for Empirical Media Research, with a third post to be filled by the end of 2011.

The new appointees join Jürg Häusermann, Professor of Media Analysis/ Media Production and Susanne Marschall, Professor of Theory, Analysis and Design of Audiovisual Media. The discipline of Media Studies is being expanded into an independent institute.

Media Studies works with the University’s Computer Science and sports media bodies. The aim is to continue focusing on socially relevant applications while intensifying research. That includes examining the labor market for media careers – in journalism, public relations, advertising and publishing. Further developments benefitting the course are the expansion of the media competence center, which is to house a central CampusMediaPortal – a newsroom and media archive for the University. University media are to be more closely linked with various departments, such as the Public Relations Department and the Information, Communication and Media Center (IKM), incorporating the IT Center and the University Library.

Cutbacks due to fewer fee-paying students

The University of Tübingen has had to cut back on services due to lower-than-expected revenues from student fees. Under new rules introduced by the state government in 2009, students with at least two siblings are exempt from the €500 per semester fee. Under that and other exemptions, only about half of our students now pay fees, reducing revenue from an expected €17 million to around €10 million.

The fees were introduced in 2007 to help meet the cost of higher education. The lost income has meant all Faculties have had to cut or postpone planned improvements, and some services including the number of language courses at the Fachsprachenzentrum have been reduced.
A special prize for student involvement benefiting University life

October 2010 saw the first awards of the special prize for student involvement. The prize goes to individual students or groups whose activities benefit other students. Winners can put the prize money to any use that is in the interest of students. The first prizewinners were the members of a support group for international students, known as StudIT.

StudIT – helping students from around the world find their feet.

The name is short for Student Initiative International Tübingen. The StudIT group currently has five main organizers: Cathrine Bitzer, Linda Klein, Janina Zimmermann, Benjamin Merkle and Benjamin Grotepass. They aim to help students from abroad get settled in Tübingen; they also organize a large part of the orientation week program for international students.

That work won them the University’s new special prize for student involvement. They plan to use the €2500 prize money to give their many activities a more solid financial foundation. “Of course we are very happy to get the prize,” says Cathrine Bitzer.

The group organizers have contracts with the University’s International Affairs department, but they also devote a lot of their own time to ensuring there is a comprehensive program of events for international students.

They aim to set up a mentoring program to match up interested international students with a local student – preferably before the visitor even arrives. “There are several hundred requests each semester,” says Cathrine Bitzer. StudIT offers weekly consultation hours, regular meetings, as well as excursions and other events.

“We send out e-mails for the mentoring program. And the pile of German applications left at the end is usually pretty small – there is a lot of demand,” says Linda Klein. Tübingen students often say they are motivated to join the program because they themselves were welcomed abroad and would like to return the favor. International students are given information about StudIT when they enroll. “A lot of contacts are made via our facebook pages,” says Cathrine Bitzer.

Students participating come from other European countries, the US, Israel, Yemen, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Thailand, Turkey – Cathrine Bitzer and Linda Klein have stopped counting how many. “The program helps counter the way international students tend to stick together,” says Linda Klein. The local mentor sometimes just helps the new arrival find his or her way in the new surroundings; sometimes they end up firm friends.

A sports education specialist takes the 2010 teaching prize for his social approach to sports teaching

The University Lehrpreis, or teaching prize, goes to a lecturer recommended by students. With it comes prize money of €3000. It was first given in 2007 and is now awarded at the Dies Universitatis in October, together with the special prize for student involvement. In 2010, it went to Dr Andreas Hoffmann of the Institut für Sportwissenschaft.

Andreas Hoffmann: social skills are what new sports teachers need

Sports education lecturer Dr. Andreas Hoffmann says he gets a lot of positive feedback from his classes. “I think it’s a good thing that the prize focuses on sports teaching students. They are a group often forgotten because so many students today are oriented towards Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees,” says Hoffmann.

The teaching prize is for his classes on social competence in sports teaching, which incorporate exercises such as role-plays with video feedback to help future sports teachers
keep lessons on track. “People often forget that sports lessons in schools also have an educational side,” says Hoffmann, pointing out that schoolchildren need to learn about fair play, cooperation, and the willingness to perform. But for many sports teachers, according to Hoffmann, the focus is not on academic or didactic models.

Hoffmann, who himself studied sports and education, developed his seminars in how to deal with disruption and problems during lessons. They encourage theoretical reflection and discussion on how teachers can deal with tricky situations. “The courses are developing all the time. I get a lot of feedback from students who have started teaching or are in the practical phase of their training,” says Hoffmann.

The aim of the prizewinning seminar is to increase future sports teachers’ social skills. The teacher-pupil role plays encourage those watching to offer constructive criticism – so that the situation can be replayed with different responses leading to a positive outcome. “The students should not regard disruptions as stressful or annoying; rather, they can use them. They can take an active role, thereby gaining a wider repertoire of possible responses.”

Hoffmann would like to spend the €3000 prize money to further develop his courses – for instance with better media equipment, with parallel research, and by condensing the material, theoretical background and research results into a book, making his approach available to others in the field.

Innovative New Courses

Tübingen Medicine meets Stuttgart Engineering

Medical Technology is the new course on offer jointly at the Universities of Tübingen and Stuttgart. Each year this Bachelor’s course, which kicked off in the winter semester of 2010/11, will admit 100 students with a keen interest in medicine and technology.

Medical Technology integrates Engineering expertise at the University of Stuttgart with Tübingen’s strengths in the field of Medicine. In the first four semesters, the students develop skills in areas such as Experimental Physics, Cell Biology, Human Biology, Computer Science and Biochemistry in Tübingen, and Mathematics, Optical Design and the different branches of Engineering in Stuttgart. In their third year, students can choose to specialize either in Medical Engineering in Stuttgart or Biomedical Technologies in Tübingen. Each of these subjects can be further pursued at the Master’s level.

The course also offers excellent opportunities for those wishing to enter the medical technologies sector after completing the Medical Technology B.Sc. The course is...
linked with the strong medical technologies industry in Baden-Württemberg state, which represents 60 percent of the German market and a significant proportion of the world market in the sector. Key local manufacturers support scholarships for gifted students in the field via the Stiftung Förderfonds Medizintechnik foundation.

Four new professorships set up by the state government helped make this new course possible, giving the University of Tübingen professorial chairs in implant technology and organic-inorganic interfaces, and the University of Stuttgart professorships in medical equipment construction and optical design and simulation.

The joint project is coordinated by the Inter-University Center for Medical Technology Stuttgart-Tübingen (IZST), which has many years of experience in bringing together expertise in medical technologies and regenerative medicine from the universities and other research institutions.

Further details at: www.uni-medtech.de

German as a Second Language: Language diagnostics and training

The three-year Bachelor's course in German as a second language – language diagnostics and training was first offered in the winter semester 2010/11, integrating the latest findings in the fields of linguistics, language acquisition, psychology, neurology and education.

There is a great demand for specialists to teach German as a second language in preschools, schools and other institutions. Such teachers need more than just a knowledge of how language is acquired; they must also be competent in diagnostic processes to determine language standards and understand the development involved in the acquisition of a second language.

This new course covers all these areas, integrating theory and practice. The course is incorporated within the linguistics and cognition research network, the Tübingen Center for Linguistics (TüZLi), the course puts the results of current interdisciplinary research into practice. Many of the graduates aim to teach German as a second language and have Adult Education as a minor subject. Another possibility for graduates is to train as key communicators, passing on their knowledge above all in kindergartens. Course graduates with Education as a minor subject may also qualify to be language consultants in social and pediatric institutions or as assistant teachers in classes with a high percentage of children from non-German backgrounds. Depending on a student's accompanying subjects, there are many career prospects – for instance, a minor in computer linguistics can open the way to specialization in the development and use of computer-supported, multimedia teaching aids. A combination with German Studies or literature can lead to later work in German language and culture teaching both domestically and abroad.
**STUDENT PROTESTS IN TÜBINGEN**

**The University responds to certain demands**

University and school students gathered in Tübingen on June 9 2010 for a demonstration demanding a fairer education system and the abolition of student fees. This was a follow-up of countrywide protests the previous year, in which Tübingen students also called for the reintroduction of a student voice in all University matters, better conditions in overcrowded courses, and for the scrapping of the newly-introduced system of Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees under the EU-wide Bologna Process.

In an open letter to the protestors on June 22 2009, University President Professor Bernd Engler conceded that University management had been looking at negative developments in the Bachelor’s and Master’s courses and was addressing the weaknesses in its implementation of the Bologna Process.

As a result, it was decided to allow Bachelor’s degrees over four years instead of the original three, giving students greater freedom in the organization of their studies by allowing more specialization, interdisciplinary work and practical training. The first pilot courses in line with this began in Physics and Psychology the following semester. The President stressed, however, that he was not calling the Bologna Process itself into question.

The President also defended the University’s participation in the government’s Excellence Initiative against student charges that teaching was suffering due to the focus on research. Professor Engler stressed that top-level research was necessary for top-level teaching. The Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Professor Stefanie Gropper, assured students they would have their say on conditions via a new “initiative to support good teaching.”
University Administration
The University’s academic restructuring in 2010 was mirrored in a comprehensive administrative reorganization. The number of administrative departments was cut from seven to six, allowing similar organizational tasks to be grouped together. The prime example of this is the creation of the Academic Affairs department, responsible for all courses and study programs. The IT Center also underwent major changes – keeping it up to date in a world of rapid technological development.
Members of the University Council

Professor Dr. Wilhelm Rall was elected as the University Council’s new chairman in November 2009. Professor Rall, a Council member since February 2009, replaced Tilman Todenhöfer, chairman from 2000 to 2009.

Wilhelm Rall was born in 1946 in Mössingen; he studied Political Economy, taking a doctorate at the University of Tübingen in 1975. In 1977 he became a consultant at McKinsey & Company, advancing to senior partner in 1987. He worked in many different sectors, primarily in strategy and organization, and helped launch many international projects. From 1986 to 2001, he headed McKinsey’s Stuttgart office. He was a member of the company’s international shareholder council from 1991 to 2005. Since 2005 he has been active as a director emeritus, working jointly with institutions such as Harvard and MIT. In 2003 Dr. Rall was made an honorary Professor of the University of Tübingen, where he teaches Economics.
**University Finances**

University Budget (excluding Faculty of Medicine and hospitals)

### 2009 Income (€210.8m)
- **State funding**: €144.7m (68.6%)
- **Third-party funding**: €45.8m (21.7%)
- **Student fees**: €10.2m (4.9%)
- **Restricted funds from the state Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts**: €4.8m (2.3%)
- **Other**: €5.3m (2.5%)

### 2009 Expenditure (€215.7m)
- **Personnel**: €111.6m (51.7%)
- **Building management costs**: €20.0m (9.3%)
- **Research and teaching (incl. Library and IT Center)**: €23.3m (10.8%)
- **Third-party funding**: €50.2m (23.3%)
- **Subsidies and reserves for buildings**: €2.8m (1.3%)
- **Setup investments**: €1.9m (0.9%)
- **Other**: €1.1m (0.5%)
2009 Faculty finances, € m

- Student fees
- State government
- Statutory investments
- Research assistants
- Materials

| University Administration | Structures and Statistics | 51 |
Since 1998, the University has been following an internal strategy to ensure that funding for materials and personnel goes to where it is most needed and will be best used. Seventy percent of funding is distributed according to the assessment of existing infrastructure; the rest on the basis of enrollment, third-party funding and the number of students taking their exams.

Funds for teaching and research in 2009 enabled a one-off investment of €1.9m in new appointments. 2009 also saw the approval of €3.7m in other one-off investments. In the same year, €350,000 was spent on urgent building and maintenance projects. Set-up investment came to €4.1m.

The promotion of women was incorporated into the criteria governing the performance-related distribution of funding. Such funds are available to the Faculties for research and teaching projects.
Central Ministry Funds

The University of Tübingen received more than €6.1m from central funds of the state Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts in Stuttgart – some €4.8m directly, the rest indirectly via various University projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry fund</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tr>
<td>Equal Opportunities</td>
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<td>261,495</td>
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<td>Margarete von Wrangell Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core research program</td>
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<td>1,120,730</td>
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<td>Cutting-edge research</td>
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<td>1,453,500</td>
<td>1,312,214</td>
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<td>Commercial start-ups</td>
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<td>86,360</td>
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<td>2012 expansion program</td>
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<td>2,074,888</td>
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<td>Structural fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,063,170</td>
<td>5,442,620</td>
<td>5,281,155</td>
<td>6,172,826</td>
<td>6,163,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use of student fees

The revenue from fees is used for a number of purposes focusing on additional staff (some 64 percent overall) and improvements to studying conditions:

- Faculty staff
- tutors for more comprehensive mentoring of students
- academic counselors, support for excursions
- additional teaching materials, extended library opening hours
- more staff in key service facilities, eg. IT Center, language center, Career Service, International Affairs department, Hochschuldidaktik, the Teacher Training Advisory Center
- promotion of innovative teaching via the Lehrpreis award, encouraging student involvement benefiting University life via the Sonderpreis für studentisches Engagement award (see p. 50)
- improved laboratory facilities
- modernization of technology in labs, lecture halls, tutorial rooms and student workspaces
- improved computer facilities for students
- measures for evaluation and quality management

Student fees

Fees of €500 per student per semester have been contributing to University funding since 2007. By law, the money must be used to support studies and teaching. Student representatives have a say in its use.

This revenue fell sharply in 2009 with the introduction of exemptions for students with two or more siblings, reducing income from fees to €13.7m for the year. In the summer semester of 2010, almost 53 percent of Tübingen students were exempt.

One quarter of fee revenue is distributed to the Faculties; a further 25 percent is earmarked for general University needs, while the remaining 50 percent is available to the Faculties upon application, according to performance and subject to the scrutiny of a student representative.
Joint Projects
Working with partners around the world

Every field of research in Tübingen has close ties with national and international bodies. The University’s project partners include research institutions, museums and industry. There are many different forms of cooperation, from joint research projects, to academic exchanges and even professorships financed jointly with one key partner, the Natural and Medical Sciences Institute. The Max Planck Institutes for Developmental Biology and for Biological Cybernetics remain key long-term research partners – the relationship here is closer and more dynamic than ever.

New Ties at Home and Abroad

Exploring the impact of reform: The Governance in China research network

Since March 2010, the Tübingen institute of Chinese Studies has formed a key part of a new project, Governance in China: Preconditions, Limits and Potentials of Political Adaptability and Innovativeness in the 21st Century. Along with colleagues from Universities of Duisburg-Essen, Trier and Würzburg as well as from the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg, Tübingen’s Professor Gunter Schubert has been successful in obtaining a German Education and Research Ministry grant to promote area studies at German universities. The total funding for the project is €2.5m over four years.

The Governance in China network examines problems of national and local government in China, focusing on the changes brought about by reform. Its aim is to strengthen the links between political science oriented China studies in Germany, to train a new generation of China scholars with a sound social science background, and to increase Germany’s visibility within the international scientific community as a research location.

The project has nine people working on it full-time – junior researchers, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. The ministry grant makes comprehensive field work in China possible, as well as allowing the participants to take part in – and hold their own – specialist conferences as well as providing funds for academic exchanges.

The approval of the network has further underlined the strength of Chinese Studies at the University of Tübingen, and following the successful attaining of third-party funding for the European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan (ERCCT) in 2008, has greatly increased its attractiveness to both German and international students and junior researchers.

Details online at: www.regiereninchina.de/home
Training curators for the museums of today: the wissen&museum project

Three Tübingen institutes have joined forces with the Deutsche Literaturarchiv Marbach (DLA) to develop a new type of Museum Studies aimed at training future curators in the practical application of advanced theoretical knowledge. The University’s Institute of Empirical Cultural Studies, the Kunsthistorische Institut and the University-affiliated Knowledge Media Research Center are working with the DLA on the project “wissen&museum: Archiv – Exponat – Evidenz” (knowledge&museum: archive – exhibit – evidence). Over three years, the trainee curators will complete internships at the Marbach museums while writing a thesis on a related topic.

The project focuses on how museums can best formulate and pass on information: What processes happen in a museum? What makes something from the archives relevant for public display? How is cultural knowledge presented – and thereby altered? And: What do visitors to an exhibition learn? The empirical foundation of the answers to these and other questions is a jointly-designed exhibition on the year 1912, to be launched in April 2012 at the Literaturmuseum der Moderne.

The top level of museum curatorship is experiencing a lack of people with both academic and curatorial qualifications. This project is dedicated to bringing the two together, with academic knowledge enhancing curatorial skills. To this end, it aims to work out methods and models of museum-based research that can be applied to different kinds of museums; it is testing a new kind of cooperation between the University and non-university institutions in order to optimize the transfer between theory and practice; and to train up-and-coming curators in these techniques. It is to become a permanent joint project between the University and other research institutions.

Details online at: www.wissen-und-museum.de
GenBioCom: Leading the search for new antibiotics

The German Education and Research Ministry’s GenBioCom initiative earmarks more than three million euros over three years for the development of better medications against infectious diseases, using new techniques from genetic research, bioinformatics and biotechnology. A sum of €1.2 million goes to researchers at the University of Tübingen.

Infectious diseases are one of the world’s biggest killers. Many pathogens have become resistant to conventional antibiotics, obviating the need for new, better targeted medications. Most antibiotics are derived from substances created by living things; microorganisms are an important source of bioactive material.

The team led by Professor Wolfgang Wohlleben of the Interfaculty Institute of Microbiology and Infection Medicine examines the genes of common bacteria in order to determine how effective new antibiotics could act. Professor Wohlleben’s team is also exploring how genetic alterations can make microorganisms produce more effective agents. Also taking part in the GenBioCom project are working groups led by Professor Stephanie Grond (Organic Chemistry), Professor Lutz Heide of the Pharmaceutical Institute, and Dr. Tilmann Weber (Microbiology).

The GenBioCom project also includes researchers at the universities of Bielefeld, Bonn and Freiburg, as well as the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology in Jena and the pharmaceuticals makers Insilico Biotechnology in Stuttgart and Bioviotica in Dransfeld.
Tübingen joins forces with NMI to develop Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

Pharmacology applies chemical discoveries in the form of drugs to help solve problems in Medicine. Tübingen’s Pharmaceutical Institute is particularly strong in this kind of research due to a policy of recruiting highly-specialized staff. To reinforce basic research in the field, a new professorship of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology has been set up in conjunction with the Natural and Medical Sciences Institute in the nearby city of Reutlingen. The NMI is an independent institute of applied research in the life sciences, biomedical technology and materials science, which the University works with in a number of areas.

The new professorship is to be oriented towards the practical development and production of recombinant, pharmaceutically-relevant proteins and therapeutically or diagnostically relevant antibodies – complimenting the existing research currently under way at the Pharmaceutical Institute and the NMI. The relevant working groups will have new laboratories in the NMI’s new building in Reutlingen/Kusterdingen. Drugs development is a large and booming market, and this project is well-placed among Europe’s most important cluster of pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industry in southwestern Germany.

The new professorship will also focus on teaching primarily within the new Master’s course in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, run jointly by Tübingen, Ulm University, and the Biberach University of Applied Sciences. The innovative nature of this new post incorporating both research and teaching has attracted funding from two state ministries – the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts and the Economics Ministry.
Some 700 people from more than 45 countries are employed at the Max Planck Campus in Tübingen. The three Max Planck entities in Tübingen – the Institutes for Biological Cybernetics and for Developmental Biology and the Friedrich Miescher Laboratory – examine fundamental biological processes from different perspectives.

At the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, there are six key research fields: protein evolution, biochemistry, genetics, evolutionary biology, cell biology and molecular biology. The director of genetics, Nobel laureate Professor Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, is also managing director of the Friedrich Miescher Laboratory, where four research groups are breaking new ground in various fields of DNA research.

The University has a long history of collaboration with the Max Planck Institutes. The relationship has grown closer and more complex over the years. “New developments present opportunities for closer cooperation in the excellence initiative. Collaboration between Max Planck Institutes and universities is expected there – politically and otherwise,” says Scientific Director of the MPI for Developmental Biology, Dr. Elisa Izaurralde.

Another example of how closely the University and the Max Planck Society work together is the new international Max Planck research school for postgraduates, “Molecules to Organisms,” headed by Dr. Izaurralde and Professor Alfred Nordheim of the University of Tübingen. Interdisciplinary training of the next generation of researchers at the research school not only spans the areas of structural, molecular, cell and developmental biology, bioinformatics, genomic research and evolutionary biology – it deals with all the organizational levels of living things from the simple molecule to the entire complex organism.

The six departments at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology:

- Andrei Lupas heads the evolution of proteins department, which aims to discover what proteins looked like in the first living things on Earth.
- Elisa Izaurralde’s department of biochemistry is devoted to studying post-transcriptional mechanisms of gene expression, focusing on various aspects of RNA biology.
- Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard’s genetics department focuses on the genes of the Zebrafish – why do different strains of danio rerio vary much more as adults than they do as embryos? This department examines the genetic basis of these differences and how they developed.
- The evolutionary biology department carries out evolutionary studies on roundworms. Led by Ralf J.Sommer, researchers here are examining the processes that lead to changes in the model organism pristionchus pacificus and seeking to understand the role such variations play in evolution and development, as well as how the environment influences evolutionary processes.
- The cell biology department under Gerd Jürgens looks at the formation of plant embryos to understand the mechanisms underlying variation in adaptive traits.
- Detlef Weigel heads the molecular biological focus on the frequency of genetic variations in plants caused by mutation, selection and speciation. As pioneers of new sequencing techniques in the model plant arabidopsis thaliana, researchers are searching its entire genome for mutation patterns. In order to evaluate the vast amount of data, they have developed new bioinformatic methods.

Researchers from the University and Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology hold a joint annual Life Science Symposium and a biannual Faculty Club, where team leaders can present their work to colleagues. The Max Planck doctoral program ensures high-quality mentoring of more than 100 junior researchers jointly with University staff. Thus students and scientific staff are in close contact, which promotes a fruitful exchange of ideas.
The University of Tübingen’s Key Research Partners

- Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics (Tübingen)
- Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology (Tübingen)
- Friedrich Miescher Laboratory, Max Planck Society (Tübingen)
- NMI – Natural and Medical Sciences Institute (Reutlingen)
- Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle
- IWM – KMRC Institut für Wissensmedien – Knowledge Media Research Center (Tübingen)
- Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch Institute for Clinical Pharmacology (Stuttgart)
- University of Stuttgart – cooperation within the inter-university center for medical technology, the IZST
- Forschungszentrum Jülich, member of the Helmholtz Association
- Institute for Applied Economic Research e. V. (Tübingen)
- Senckenberg Research Institute (Frankfurt am Main)
- Curt Engelhorn Center for Archaeometry (Mannheim) – associated with the University of Tübingen
- Universität Hohenheim – Center for Nutritional Medicine (ZEM) Tübingen – Hohenheim
- PH Ludwigsburg University of Education – Faculty of Special Education, Reutlingen – in association with the University of Tübingen (Reutlingen)
- Forschungsinstitut für Arbeit, Technik und Kultur e. V. – group researching processes of social, cultural and technical change (Tübingen)
- Goethe-Wörterbuch (Goethe dictionary) – Tübingen project sponsored by the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Tübingen)
- Institut für donauschwäbische Geschichte und Landeskunde – researching the history of ethnic Germans in southeastern Europe (Tübingen)
- Institut für Rehabilitationsforschung, Qualitätsentwicklung und Strukturanalyse in der Behindertenhilfe (REQUEST) e. V. – carries out analyses to develop methods of prevention, intervention and rehabilitation associated with disabilities (Tübingen)
- University of Applied Forest Sciences – Rottenburg
- Staatliches Seminar für Didaktik und Lehrerbildung (Gymnasien) Tübingen

In Transregio collaborative research centers:

Gravitational Wave Astronomy: Methods – Sources – Observation (SFB/TR 7)
- Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysics (Garching)
- Friedrich Schiller University Jena
- Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Potsdam-Golm, Hannover)
- Leibniz Universität Hannover

Neutrinos and Beyond – Weakly Interacting Particles in Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology (SFB/TR 27)
- Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut, München)
- Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik (Garching)
- Technische Universität München
- Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics (Heidelberg)
- Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (TH)

Pathophysiology of Staphylococci in the Post-Genomic Era (SFB/TR 34)
- University of Greifswald
- University of Würzburg

Geometric Partial Differential Equations (SFB/TR 71)
- University of Freiburg
- University of Zürich
A Global Perspective on Global Issues

It makes sense to tackle global issues such as alternative energies and demographic change with international joint research groups incorporating a variety of viewpoints. One such is the new Matariki network of seven highly-respected universities around the world. International students meeting in Tübingen for the third World Student Environmental Summit also took a global perspective, formulating demands to policymakers for sustainability and the protection of the environment. The University of Tübingen is itself growing internationally, with a new branch in the South Korean capital Seoul, which will complement the University’s existing Asian branches in Beijing and Kyoto.

Forming new partnerships and strengthening existing ones

Seven Universities join forces in the Matariki research network

The University of Tübingen is one of the seven world-class institutions which banded together in the English town of Durham in February 2010 to form the Matariki Network of Universities, under the motto “partnering for a better world.” The participants aim to develop new ideas for graduate training and cooperative research, as well as exchanging students and teaching staff.

The founding members are strongly research-oriented universities and are among the oldest and foremost places of learning in their respective countries. Besides Tübingen, which dates from 1477, they are Sweden’s Uppsala Universitet, founded the same year, Durham University, established in 1832, Canada’s Queen’s University, founded in 1841, Dartmouth College in the US, dating from 1769, the University of Western Australia in Perth, established in 1911, and New Zealand’s University of Otago, founded in 1869.

The seven institutions also plan to develop joint postgraduate degree programs and to hold symposia on the urgent problems of a global society. The first of these research workshops, Renewable Energy and Society: Technological Possibilities and Social Implications took place at Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada, in November 2010.

“Matariki” is the Māori name for the group of stars known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters. Similarly, there are seven founding member universities in the MNU. “Matariki” is also the name of the Māori New Year, which marks a new beginning. The name pays tribute to the University of Otago, which provided the momentum for the founding of the network.

Further details at: www.matarikinetwork.com

The University of Tübingen sets up a new branch in South Korea

The University of Tübingen is setting up its third institute in East Asia – the Tübingen Center for Korean Studies at Korea University. President Professor Bernd Engler and his counterpart, Professor Ki-Su Lee, signed the agreement in Seoul in September 2010. Starting in March 2012, the
Center will coordinate the exchange of students and academics as well as joint research projects between the University of Tübingen and Korea. All Tübingen Korean Studies students will be able to complete two semesters of study at the Center.

Tübingen’s Korean Studies Institute is one of the oldest in Germany. Its focus is on modern Korea. Professor Ki-Su Lee is a Tübingen alumnus who took his doctorate in Law at the University. He has been awarded the Grosse Verdienstkreuz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland for his services to German-Korean relations.

The University’s other branches in Asia are the Tübingen Center for Japanese Language at Dōshisha University in Kyoto and the European Centre for Chinese Studies at Beijing University. The Center for Korean Studies establishes Tübingen as the only German university represented in all three of these important countries.

Dōshisha and Tübingen have been working together for some twenty years. The Kyoto institution was founded by the first Japanese to graduate from a foreign university, Niishima Jō, who took a degree from Amherst College in the US in 1870. In keeping with the spirit of its founder, Dōshisha is especially committed to international exchange, with a number of institutes associated with foreign universities and a large number of exchange programs.

The Tübingen Center is located on the campus in the heart of Kyoto, a few minutes’ walk from the former Imperial Palace. Since 1995 there has been a regular academic exchange, with Dōshisha students attending the Tübingen summer course in German language and regional studies, and German students studying at the Tübingen Center in Kyoto. Dōshisha University provides the venue, enrolls the German students free of charge and gives them access to its facilities. In return, Tübingen arranges scholarships for Japanese undergraduate and postgraduate students, e.g. research grants for PhD students from the Adolf Theis Foundation.

The two universities have been holding joint interdisciplinary workshops in Tübingen und Kyoto, dedicated to a broad spectrum of issues:

- German-Japanese corporate cooperation (2005)
- Japanese Migration to Germany: Gender and Bilingualism (2006)

The 2008 founding of the World Student Environmental Network in Kyoto marked a further link between Dōshisha University and the University of Tübingen. The international students held their first World Student Environmental Summit at Dōshisha with the backing of Professor Eiji Hatta. In September 2010, the student met at their third environmental summit at the University of Tübingen.
World Student Environmental Summit: Delegates call on politicians to back sustainability programs

The University of Tübingen hosted 65 students from 25 countries at the World Student Environmental Summit in September 2010. The students’ aims were to discuss environmental problems from a global perspective and to formulate recommendations for action to policymakers. They also planned to establish a global student network dealing with environmental and sustainability issues. The summit’s patron was Professor Dr. Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program.

Speakers from the worlds of academia, business, politics and other parts of society opened the discussion on each day’s special topic. The issues examined included energy sources of the future, ecological thinking in the economy, sustainable consumerism and education for sustainable development.

Many of the events introduced the public to their work, including the University of Tübingen research project Biochar – Terra Preta and a lecture by Harvard University’s Gabriel Chan on Energy Economics and Innovation.

A group of participating students summarized the results of the summit in a position paper directed at policymakers and universities. On October 4, 2010, a group of World Student Environmental Summit activists from Germany, Japan, Canada, Cameroon, the US, India and Switzerland presented the paper to officials at the Ministry of the Environment in Berlin.

The students called on policymakers to support a binding environmental protocol and to support communal projects in the areas of the environment and sustainability. They stressed they were seeking a change in values across the board – in politics, business and the wider society. They called on big educational institutions to make a contribution to sustainable development by raising awareness and promoting research.

The first World Student Environmental Summit took place in 2008 in Kyoto (see previous article); the second was in Victoria, Canada in 2009.

Further information at: www.2010wses.org
The Study Abroad Fair:
Opening up international perspectives

Thirty universities from 13 countries around the world sent representatives to the sixth Study Abroad Fair on December 9, 2009, and to the accompanying seminars organized by the University’s Department of International Affairs. Networking and academic exchange were in focus for students wanting information about the foreign institutions at which they wished to study.

The Universities of Botswana and of Haifa, Israel, were represented for the first time. Students showed a strong interest not only in the popular exchanges within Europe, but also in locations farther abroad, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Singapore. There was also keen interest in Tübingen’s 15 partner universities in the United States.

Alongside the Study Abroad Fair, which was set up in the foyer of the student cafeteria, a series of information seminars were held at the Neue Aula by returning students talking about their studies in places including Latin America, the US, Australia, Asia, South Africa, or in other European countries as part of the Erasmus program. Their photographs documented everyday life on campus as well as their exciting experiences away from their studies. These students and university officials from the Department of International Affairs were available to answer questions on various issues, including application procedures.

According to the German National Association for Student Affairs, about ten percent more Tübingen students spend a part of their studies abroad than the German average. The University’s large number of partnerships around the world makes an important contribution to this international focus.

DAAD: Tübingen academics and students make good use of funding for exchanges

In 2009, the German Academic Exchange Service, the DAAD, supported Tübingen students to the tune of 3.2 million euros. That is some €360,000 more than in the previous year. More than 60 percent of that sum, €1.9m, was spent on furthering academic careers. The University granted 384 individual scholarships: 162 to German and 176 to non-German students, and 46 to academics, including 37 from abroad. Around €1.2m was spent on projects and programs. The largest part of this – nearly €600,000 – was disbursed by the Erasmus Program in travel allowances for more than 400 Tübingen students. When it comes to financial support for academic careers, the University of Tübingen is one of the most active in Germany, according to a DAAD comparison.
A dot on the map represents a city which is home to one or more institutions with which the University of Tübingen has regular exchanges. Yet the roughly 140 partner institutions, the six other Universities in the Matariki Network, and Tübingen's three branches in Asia are not all of the University's international ties. Within Europe, the University of Tübingen has contacts with around 310 other institutions via the Erasmus program, while the Faculties maintain exchanges with 70 universities within Europe and around the world. In total, the University of Tübingen offers 1,161 possible exchanges with 483 institutions of higher education in 56 different countries. Around 1,000 students take part in these programs every year.
The Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium:
Supporting exchange students in Tübingen

The Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium is a program run by the foundation Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, under which several hundred scholarships are awarded annually to good and excellent university students, vocationally qualified people and secondary-school students on the basis of reciprocity. The University of Tübingen has sent 513 of its students abroad since 2001.

Due to the financial crisis, the foundation’s budget in the academic year 2009/10 fell to just 37 percent of the previous year's figure. This meant that in 2009/10 the University was unable to send any students abroad on the Baden-Württemberg scholarship scheme.

Support for students from outside Germany, however, continued. Incoming students from partner universities all over the world are crucial in providing future tuition-free exchange places for Tübingen students. The 47 incoming scholarship holders came from partner institutions in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Columbia, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan, and Venezuela.

The Baden-Württemberg Stiftung’s budget recovered in 2010/11, allowing Tübingen to look forward to once more sending as many of its own students abroad as the number of international students it welcomes.
TÜBINGEN HOSTS THE
FULBRIGHT DISTINGUISHED
CHAIR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

For three years, the University of Tübingen is able to host an outstanding professor from the United States as a Fulbright Distinguished Chair for American Studies. Following a hard-fought contest, the German-American Fulbright Commission moved this unique professorship to Tübingen for three years, starting in the winter semester of 2009/10. In its comprehensive program of American Studies, the University of Tübingen works closely with the German-American Institute Tübingen (d.a.i.). The Fulbright Distinguished Chair can be filled by any outstanding specialist in the fields of American culture or literature, including History, Politics, Sociology, Law, Art History and Media Studies.

The first Fulbright professor at the University of Tübingen was Jane Feuer of the University of Pittsburgh, a specialist in Film Studies. From September 2010, Tübingen’s Fulbright Distinguished Professor is the historian Robert J. Norrell, from the University of Tennessee.

Portrait: Robert J. Norrell

An American in Tübingen – getting a new perspective on his homeland

Professor Robert J. Norrell was glad to come to Germany – in fact, he says, he was looking for a way to spend some time here. He holds the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the University of Tübingen for ten months starting September 2010.

His special field is the history of race relations in the US in the twentieth century. He and his wife Tracy – a PhD in German History – have used their time here to visit a number of German cities. The Norrells’ home is in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Robert Norrell is a professor of History. The Norrells are enthusiastic about Tübingen: “The town is beautiful, the people friendly, and we really like the lifestyle. You can go anywhere on foot or by bike,” says Robert Norrell.

Professor Norrell has chosen several topics for his research and teaching work in Tübingen, focusing on Black Nationalism and the civil rights movement, and American life in the twentieth century. “Uncertainty arose among Americans. They often felt uncomfortable in the role the United States has taken in the world,” says Robert Norrell. He is examining how the US is regarded by other nations. And he is interested to hear what Tübingen students have to say. “I can learn a lot,” he adds. And in a world rocked by financial crises, economic themes also come up in his teaching.

Professor Norrell holds his lectures in English – but he has set himself the goal of being able to talk about his research in German before his time in Tübingen is up. Another of his research themes is immigration. He aims to compare the attitudes among Americans and Europeans to discover how different nations regard immigration – and how immigrants alter the values of their new home countries.

For Robert Norrell it is an attempt to understand American history from a new perspective. He thinks that teaching is the best way to learn. “It forces me as a professor to formulate clear arguments. I am interested to hear the students’ views and contributions.” He would also like to hear various opinions from countries such as the UK, the Netherlands and Sweden. “Europeans know a lot about the US,” says Norrell, “but we Americans know much less about Europe and about how the world sees us.”
Window on the World
The University in the Public Eye

It is important to the University of Tübingen that the public is kept informed about its research and teaching. The information is disseminated via lectures, exhibitions, publications and individual projects organized by both academics and students. One outstanding student contribution was an exhibition and catalogue by Empirical Cultural Studies students, who cooperated with the Bosch company to investigate Germany’s first generation of postwar foreign workers. Nor is the University afraid to shine a light into dark chapters of its own history, as the publication of a volume of research on Tübingen under National Socialism shows.

The University of Tübingen pays tribute to Frank Lucas

The London banker Dr. Frank Lucas was made an honorary senator of the University of Tübingen on July 16, 2010. Frank Lucas has generously secured the future of the Dr. Leopold Lucas Memorial Prize endowed by his father and named after his grandfather, a Jewish rabbi and scholar murdered at Theresienstadt in 1943. The €50,000 prize honours outstanding achievements in the fields of Theology, History and Philosophy, focusing on individuals who promote tolerance among nations and religions.

The eulogy was delivered by Professor Friedrich Schweitzer, Dean of the Protestant Theology Faculty, which allocates the prize. The University paid tribute to Frank Lucas, “who has made the reconciliation of the faiths on the basis of the closeness of Judaism and Christianity his personal mission, thereby continuing his father’s life’s work with tremendous dedication,” as stated in the award certificate.

The 2010 Dr. Leopold Lucas Memorial Prize went to the sociologist Peter L. Berger, known for many works including The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge (1966) co-authored with Thomas Luckmann. For nearly forty years, Berger has drawn attention to problems of political ethics in a global context. He has been head of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University since 1985.

Frank Lucas also sponsors the Dr. Leopold Lucas young researchers’ prize, which the University of Tübingen has awarded every year since 1986. It goes to an outstanding dissertation in the fields of Protestant or Catholic Theology, Philosophy or History. In 2010 the prize, for the first time set at €12,000, went to Dr. Martin Wendte of the Faculty of Protestant Theology.
Cultural Highlights

Writers’ Lectureship 2009 with Jonathan Franzen

The focus of the 2009 visiting writer scheme was on contemporary American literature and German-US cultural exchange. The event, sponsored by Adolf Würth GmbH & Co. KG, took place December 1-5. Visiting US writers Jonathan Franzen and Adam Haslett joined with German author Daniel Kehlmann to discuss the political, social and aesthetic impact of contemporary literature in the US and the existing parallels with German literature.

Jonathan Franzen leapt to literary fame with his novel *The Corrections*, which won him the National Book Award in 2001. The translated novel was highly successful in Germany, where its powerful description of the disintegration of a middle-class family struck a nerve.

Adam Haslett studied both creative writing and law. He was preparing for his final exams in law when his debut work, *You Are Not a Stranger Here* was published in 2002.

Daniel Kehlmann is one of the most important contemporary writers in German – author of international bestsellers such as *Measuring the World* (2006) – and has close ties with American literature, which he calls his “greatest love” (Buchjournal).

Further information at: www.poetik-dozentur.de

A Celebration of Plato and the Muse

Plato and the Art of the Muse was the theme of the biennial “Platon-Tage” festival held April 15-17, 2010. It was the second time this event was held to celebrate and further promote Tübingen’s grand tradition of Plato research. The ancient Greeks believed the beauty of music rested on mathematical order; and the order of the cosmos could be heard in music. Plato’s ideal education was therefore based on geometry, arithmetic, astronomy and the theory of music. Yet the Greek concept of “mousikê” includes not only music, but also literature, dance, song and rhythm; and philosophy – an art form, according to Plato.

The organizers of the Platon-Tage aim to encourage dialogue about Plato across the boundaries of subject and age. In addition to the internationally-recognized Plato researchers – in 2010 including Professor Dominic O’Meara, Professor Gyburg Uhlmann and Professor Günter Figal – the organizers also invite a number of promising young researchers. They also allow a student to present his or her own work – on this occasion, Gheorghe Pascualu spoke on “Eros and music in book III of the Republic”.

Further details at: www.unimuseum.uni-tuebingen.de/koerperwissen.html

The liberty of conscience: Ethicist Martha C. Nussbaum in Tübingen

Martha C. Nussbaum, one of the world’s best-known ethicists, was the University of Tübingen’s special guest speaker at the third Unseld Lecture in June 2010. Nussbaum, currently Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, spoke on the liberty of conscience. She stressed the need for a strict division of church and state to ensure that members of all faiths are treated equally in society.

The University Museum explores a body of knowledge

The University Museum’s major 2009-10 exhibition, KörperWissen. Erkenntnis zwischen Eros und Ekel (The Body – Attraction and Revulsion) aimed to go beyond academic reflection and into the realms of intuition, emotion and artistic treatment of the subject. The exhibition ran from late October 2009 to the end of February 2010 and featured preserved specimens, medical equipment, models, sculptures, books and illustrations – dealing with images of the body, ideals, alterations, and the body as the place memory is stored.
Nussbaum has worked with Nobel laureate Amartya Sen to further develop the capability approach, which among other things looks at real opportunities for humans to develop as a criterion of social justice. Nussbaum’s work on capabilities has often focused on the unequal freedoms and opportunities of women, and she has developed a distinctive type of feminism, drawing inspiration from the liberal tradition while emphasizing that even liberalism entails a radical rethinking of gender relations.

A special feature of the Unseld Lectures is the master class for PhD students offered by the speakers within the framework of the Forum Scientiarum. Professor Nussbaum spent a week working with young researchers who had come to Tübingen from Singapore, the Philippines, India, Canada, the US as well as European countries. They discussed the latest ideas on the capability approach. The PhD students were also able to present their own work.

Capturing an overlooked moment of postwar history: Students document lives of “guest workers”

Students at Tübingen’s Institute of Empirical Cultural Studies spent three semesters in cooperation with Robert Bosch GmbH to document the experiences of the first generation of foreign workers employed at the company in the late 1950s and 1960s. The project focused on the cultural diversity of the workplace and its positive potential.

The results of the project were collated in a more than 370-page catalogue featuring a wealth of pictures, and in an exhibition at the Diesel Museum at the Stuttgart-Feuerbach plant from July to September 2010. The exhibition, titled “Abfahren. Ankommen. Boschler Sein. Lebensgeschichten aus der Arbeitswelt” (Departure, Arrival, Being a Bosch Man; Life Stories from the Workplace) presented the project results to a wider public audience.

The project was based on documentation from the Bosch archives concerning workers who began arriving in Germany in the late 50s from Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey. But subjective accounts by the “guest workers” themselves were missing. Many of these workers are now retired or returning to their countries of origin — so the researchers set out to record examples of their experiences. In this way, an important piece of the Bosch company history — and ultimately, Germany’s postwar history — was documented.

Melanchthon exhibition: Reformation teacher lived and worked in Tübingen

The Faculty of Protestant Theology, the Institut für Geschichtliche Landeskunde and the University Museum held an exhibition marking the 450th anniversary of the death of Philipp Melanchthon. Melanchthon, a close associate of Martin Luther, was a member of the University of Tübingen, where he studied and taught from 1512 to 1518.
The exhibition ran from April to July 2010, featuring sculptures, manuscripts and early prints, portraits, graphics and University insignia linked with the man who became known as “Germany’s teacher.”

Melanchthon, a humanist, made a close study of classical Greek and Roman authors, which he saw as the only way to understand the ideals of Classical thinkers and to live a life good in the eyes of God and man. As the Reformation began, Melanchthon outlined an educational program based on piety, learning and virtue. In 1518 he was called to Wittenberg to develop it further.

A catalogue and a series of Studium Generale lectures accompanied the exhibition, highlighting Tübingen’s role as one of the cradles of German Humanism, and illustrating for visitors what life as a sixteenth-century scholar was like.

Alice Schwarzer: The media as an instrument of political change

German feminist icon Alice Schwarzer became the seventh Tübingen guest media lecturer on 7 May 2010, speaking on the subject “a question of attitude – a plea for passionate journalism.” Some 1,000 people attended the lecture by Schwarzer, a leading journalist and women’s rights activist.

Alice Schwarzer spoke about reportage as a means of bringing about social change. She said she regarded her magazine, “Emma,” not only as a vehicle for information but as an instrument of policy discussion and intervention. In calling for “passionate journalism,” Schwarzer reflected upon her many years of experience, and spoke about her own position in the German media.

Publication of research into the University of Tübingen’s Nazi past

A working group founded to examine the University’s history under the Nazi regime has published a comprehensive volume based on a 2004 series of lectures aimed at presenting the subject to a wider public. The anthology Die Universität Tübingen im Nationalsozialismus, published in July 2010, details the current state of research and offers new perspectives on the University’s history between 1933 and 1945. It includes studies on everyday life at the University, on relevant individuals and human rights violations as well as the post-1945 treatment of the Nazi period. It reflects on the strange dynamics of the University in that time, the planning euphoria surrounding new, politically “desirable” subjects, the correspondingly aggressive personnel policy, the many facets and contradictions of Gleichschaltung, as well as the different forms of self-censorship practised by many.

The working group was founded by University President Eberhard Schaich in 2001 and makes regular reports to the current President. These form a valuable foundation for the University’s response to matters arising from its history during the Nazi period which require further investigation, including:

- PhDs revoked between 1933 and 1945,
- forced laborers at the University and University Hospital,
- Jewish members of the University and
- forced sterilisations.

Urban Wiesing, Klaus-Rainer Brinzing, Bernd Grün, Horst Junginger, Susanne Michl (eds.) Die Universität Tübingen im Nationalsozialismus. Franz Steiner Verlag, 2010