Student initiatives of the University of Mannheim were invited to apply with social project proposals to compete in the Business School’s “Social Project Contest”. The project “Clothing the Gap” of the initiative Enactus Mannheim convinced the jury and receives start-up financing of 1,010 Euro. The project aims to offer suitable clothing for wheelchair-users.

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For the first time, the University of Mannheim awarded the title senior professor to a member of the faculty. Since August 1, Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Martin Weber, Professor of Finance and Banking, has the opportunity to conduct research and teach beyond his retirement.

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FT Masters in Management Ranking 2017
Business School Ranks Internationally at 12

Last year rank 14, this year rank 12 worldwide: The “Mannheim Master in Management” of the University of Mannheim, Business School once again could place itself in a top position in one of the most important rankings for Master in Management programs*. Apart from the Master’s graduates’ salary and career data, the international ranking published by the Financial Times additionally evaluates the different subjects of study. The subject “Economics” of the University of Mannheim, Business School even took first rank in the list.

* Masters in Management 2017, rankings.ft.com

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First Senior Professorship of the University of Mannheim

Life-long Research

Great honor for the Business School: for the first time the University awards the title “Senior Professor” to a member of the faculty. As of August 1, 2017, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Martin Weber, professor of finance and banking, actively conducts research and teaches beyond his term of service.

The senior professorship offers the opportunity to keep professors with extraordinary achievements and commitment at the University. Senior professors at the University of Mannheim can conduct further research and give lectures without an employment at the University. They do not hold a regular Chair anymore, but remain a member of the faculty and are entitled to vote.

“I am very happy about this special honor and the trust the University and the Business School have bestowed on me. As a senior professor I would like to devote myself to further conduct projects, give lectures and participate actively in the development of the Business School,” explains Martin Weber.

“We are glad that we can keep an excellent scientist at the University.”

“The senior professorship is an excellent possibility to benefit from the extensive experience and expertise of a faculty member,” Professor Dr. Dieter Truxius, Dean of the Business School, points out. “We are glad that we can keep an excellent scientist at the University.”

This particularly applies to Martin Weber: he is one of the leading German economists, and especially in his main research area, behavioral finance, he is seen as a pioneer. Martin Weber is one of the most cited German economists, in research as well as in the press, as proved by the F.A.Z. Economist Rankings from 2016 and 2017 (view also p. 11).

In 2007 he received the honorary degree of the University of Münster and until July of this year held the Chair of Finance and Banking at the University of Mannheim. Furthermore, he is a member of the Academy of Sciences Leopoldina as well as the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. Apart from his research publications, Martin Weber is also the author of the best-seller “Genial einfach investieren” (Campus), a guidebook for private investors on how to invest simply and efficiently. Furthermore, he initiated the index fund “ARERO”. LM
Collaboration between MBS and TSG Hoffenheim

Management Meets Professional Soccer

TSG Hoffenheim (TSG) and Mannheim Business School (MBS) have entered into a collaboration agreement. The Bundesliga team, fourth in Germany’s top soccer league in the 2016/2017 season, and the umbrella organization for management education at the University of Mannheim, will be working closely on numerous projects in research, teaching and knowledge transfer in the future. Managing Director Dr. Peter Görlich and MBS President Professor Dr. Jens Wüstemann signed the agreement in Mannheim.

“MBS is one of the top European addresses for MBA programs, as evidenced by international rankings. Together with MBS, we fulfill all the prerequisites for implementing outstanding projects with highly motivated students,” says Dr. Peter Görlich, who is responsible for innovation, digitization and internationalization at TSG. “An innovative approach and the right response to the challenges of digitization will be key success factors for companies in the future,” MBS President Professor Wüstemann stresses.

The digital training and research facilities of TSG Hoffenheim, which should be expanded with the construction of a research lab by the end of the year, will be the focus of the collaboration. Today, high-tech devices such as the Footbonaut and the Helix are already intrinsic to training and performance diagnostics. “We are very pleased to have found a partner in MBS, with which we can implement the three cornerstones of the research lab: research, teaching and knowledge transfer,” says Professor Dr. Jan Mayer. The sports scientist and graduate psychologist has been team psychologist for the TSG professionals since 2010, and also works on numerous scientific soccer projects. “Joint activities with MBS are already under way. Faculty and student feedback is extremely positive,” adds Mayer.

“The demands on competitive athletes and top managers in many disciplines are very similar. Therefore, it will be exciting to bring about the transfer of scientific concepts, and thus gain new insights,” Dr Sabine Staritz, Director of Corporate Relations at MBS, stresses. The first activities have already been planned: it is not only Mannheim students that will be working on specific issues in workshops and projects; researchers at the University of Mannheim will also have the opportunity to plan and implement projects together with TSG. The MBS corporate network will also be involved in the exchange of knowledge.

TSG Hoffenheim has played in the Bundesliga, Germany’s top soccer league, for nine consecutive years. TSG came in fourth last season (2016/2017), its best result to date, earning it the opportunity to qualify in the play-off round for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League.
Morpheus Cup in Luxemburg

Mannheimer MBA-Students Win

The students of the Mannheim Business School have achieved a great success: at this year’s Morpheus Cup, an innovation and idea competition for students from Europe’s leading universities, Karen Loh, Elliot Stevens, and Mohamad Fakih, who are all enrolled in the one-year Mannheim MBA program, won the prize endowed with 10,000 Euro in the overall classification. Runner-up were their fellow students Farhad Mammody and Hung Nguyen, who also achieved a second place in one of the individual categories.

In 2015, the Morpheus Cup emerged from the tech conference ICT Spring and is being led by the EU. The competition’s goal is to get students into contact with the business world. Overall, more than 200 students from 16 nations competed in several categories. Their task was to find innovative solutions for different entrepreneurial challenges. One task was to develop a concept for the career website of a large life insurance company. Other categories assigned challenges in areas such as cybersecurity, design, business, gamification, and engineering.

At the one-year full-time Mannheim MBA program, which the successful Morpheus Cup winners attend, currently 60 students from 26 countries receive the finishing touch for their careers. The program is addressed at graduates from all fields with at least three years of practical experience and can also be attended over a period of two years in part-time since 2013. Several alumni of the Mannheim MBA program have achieved top-management positions in well-known international industry or consulting firms. RB

10 Years Mannheim Master of Accounting & Taxation

A Success Story

“MaMat” – by now these five letters are standing for a ten-year success story. With the conception of the Mannheim Master of Accounting & Taxation – or short MaMAT – the Business School of the University of Mannheim has demonstrated prospective and innovation. The MaMAT was and is an important reaction to the increasing challenges in this profession as a result of the Bologna reform as well as to the consequent practical implementation of the educational reform formulated in the fifth WPO amendment. Based on the strong foundation of the reputation of the University of Mannheim in the areas of accounting and taxation and the strong connections between research and economy, the Mannheim Business School created a unique program in Germany. Thereby, the MaMAT lives up to its claim of providing premium education for the future management generation in the field of accounting and taxation.

The outstanding quality of the program is also represented in the following key performance indicators: more than 350 participants have already graduated and further 300 students are “in the pipeline” and will have completed the three-year program by 2020. The student’s rate of passing is above the national average – in the taxation track last year’s rate amounted to 90 percent.

However, the recent success is no excuse to rest. The program directors Prof. Dr. Jens Wüstemann (Accounting Track) and Prof. Dr. Christoph Spengel (Taxation Track) are consequently working together with business partners and lecturers towards a further optimization of the program as well as the recruiting of new students starting their education at the Mannheim Business School in spring/summer 2018. Despite the ongoing work, the Business School has decided to recognized the ten-year anniversary in social media and with an anniversary film, which will be first presented at the MaMAT Info Day on October 7. RB
International Study Option IBEA

Studying around the Globe

A semester abroad does not seem so special anymore. Spending the whole course of study on four different continents on the other hand is without doubt unique. With the international study option “IBEA” of the Bachelor in Business Administration, this is possible. The first cohort started their trip around the world this past semester in Mannheim.

Spring Semester 2017: The 37 participants of the first IBEA-cohort are festively welcomed at the University of Mannheim, Business School. IBEA stands for “International Business Education Alliance” and is a study option introduced in 2015 for the Bachelor of Business Administration program. Four business schools from four continents joined forces for this project: next to the University of Mannheim, Business School and the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina in the US, the ESSEC Business School, known as a venerable French talent-pool for managers with a branch in Singapore, joined the alliance. South-America will be represented by the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration.

For the IBEA-participants the stops abroad were thus set: Germany, Singapore, the US and Brazil. For the first three semesters the cohort studied at their home-universities to then meet the entire international group in Mannheim for the first time. It wasn’t long before first friendships were made. There are aspects all of the students have in common: Curiosity for other cultures, the wish to think outside the box and the willingness to leave the personal comfort-zone. Alena Romahn, student at the University of Mannheim and Andrei Mochkovich, who studies at ESSEC in Singapore, agree: “IBEA offers the unique chance to be prepared for leadership positions and gain life experience." According to Prof. Dr. Dieter Truxius, Dean of the University of Mannheim, Business School, IBEA is ideal for students aiming for an international career: “With IBEA they can lay the foundation for an international career because the group experience is combined with corporate projects.”

For the first cohort, an eventful semester in Mannheim comes to an end. If you ask the students for their most remarkable moments, you receive a variety of answers: For Alena the final presentation of a case study in front of the auditing company PwC, which invited the group to its Frankfurt headquarters, will remain in good memory. Andrei was working as a student assistant for the Chair of Business Administration and Taxation throughout the semester and was impressed by the work of the team. Yufei Zhou, student at the ESSEC Business School, still likes to think back to the birthday party the Brazilian IBEA members organized: In proper style with cocktails and Brazilian specialties.

The Mannheim students are now excited to also start their time abroad. Next stop is the University of South Carolina, before heading to Singapore and Brazil. For the eighth and last semester the group will have to split again. All members will then return to their home-universities. But until then, they are enjoying their IBEA adventure to the fullest. LM
New Elective for Master Students

Far East in the Focus

The new elective “Asian Studies” offers Master’s students a specific training in language and culture to prepare for the Japanese and Chinese markets.

Since the beginning of the fall semester 2017, students of the program Mannheim Master in Management (MMM) have the opportunity to enroll in a new elective. The module “Asian Studies” consists of four components where students with prior knowledge can choose between Chinese and Japanese language classes. Furthermore, cultural and economic topics are covered in seminars and guest lectures.

Economically, the Asian market is one of the most important trading centers worldwide. Due to the enormous differences in culture and language, Europeans often have difficulties to navigate in Asian business settings. Hence, the request for further language courses on Master’s level among the Business Administration students, as already offered by other European Business Schools, has existed for quite some time now. “The elective module ‘Asian Studies’ offers students an ideal overview of the Chinese and Japanese culture. It will focus on the economic policy of the respective country,” Didi Zhang, lecturer for Chinese at the University of Mannheim, Business School, explains. Zhang teaches Chinese at the Business School since 2008. Along with her colleague Ryoko Aoyagi, lecturer for Japanese, she is responsible for setting up the new elective.

MMM-students can enroll in the elective from their first semester on. The module is taught for the duration of two semesters, in which language courses, a cultural seminar and a guest lecture can be attended. It will be held by various renowned guest lecturers from the field of Asian studies and will cover different areas of Business Administration in consideration of Asian circumstances in economics and research. Overall, the elective aims to cover next to the language competencies, communication techniques and negotiation strategies as well as historical events in the respecting country.

www.facebook.com/Chinesisch
BWLUniMannheim

SAVE THE DATE 2018

MARCH
ONLINE-FAIR of the Business School

April 17
CAREER FAIR of the University of Mannheim
April 19

March 15
APPLICATION PERIOD for the Master Programs of the Business School (MMM, MMBR)
May 31
The conference is a truly global event and included 75 sessions over the course of two-and-a-half days. Researchers from 22 countries and five continents contributed to the program. The members of the program committee were drawn from 205 institutions in 28 countries. “All of the 1,737 submissions were triple reviewed and only 225 were selected for presentation,” explains Prof. Ernst Maug, Ph.D., owner of the Chair of Corporate Finance at the University of Mannheim and Program Chair of this year’s conference. “This stringent selection process ensures the high quality of the EFA Annual Meetings.”

The conference started with one of its highlights – a panel session on the topic of renationalization of western countries. Top class experts came together to discuss the consequences of the growing “my country first” attitude and the increasing skepticism towards global institutions on banking, financial markets, and international regulation. The exceptional group of specialists included Prof. Clemens Fuest (President ifo Institute, Munich), Dr. Alan Hippe (CFO / CIO Roche, Basel), Prof. Jean-Pierre Landau (Sciences Po, Paris) and Prof. Frank Smets (Director General Economics European Central Bank, Frankfurt).

The second highlight of the meeting was the keynote speech by Campbell Harvey, Professor of Finance at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina (USA) and leading expert of financial markets. He received several prizes for his publications and was editor of the Journal of Finance, the leading scientific journal in his field. In his presentation on “Hacking Finance”, Harvey took a critical view on the application of scientific methodology in the field of finance.

On the day before the conference, selected PhD students had the opportunity to present their research at the “Doctoral Tutorial” and receive feedback from prominent researchers. Moreover, a “Doctoral Workshop” took place for the first time in Mannheim. It was designed to introduce doctoral students and post-docs to new research areas in finance. The Mannheim theme was insurance. “Currently, questions about the insurance industry play a minor role in finance, even though there are interesting relations between the two fields,” says emeritus Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Bühler, who co-organized the conference. “We are making an important contribution towards the development of this field of expertise and in supporting young scientists.”

www.efa2017.org
Harvard WorldMUN 2017

Successful with Diplomacy

The Mannheim Model United Nations (MUN) delegation, which was sent out to this year’s Harvard WorldMUN in Montréal, achieved the best results to date. With Hannes Seidel, economics student, and William Wei, student of business administration, two students of the University of Mannheim together won the prestigious Diplomacy Award.

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations, in which participants take the role of ambassadors of selected countries and discuss current events and global concerns. Ever since the foundation of the United Nations in 1945, the idea of MUN simulation has remained popular among students throughout the whole world. Since 2009, the University of Mannheim has an accredited MUN student initiative to offer as well.

Throughout the closing ceremony, the Mannheim students stood out from the crowd. Hannes Seidel and William Wei accomplished to assert themselves against the powerful competition and earned the Mannheim team the highest award, the Harvard WorldMUN has to offer. In addition to that Siim Kaupmees, who studies business informatics, and Max Wosnizza, who studies economics, were awarded with a “Verbal Recommendation” and hereby contributed to this year’s WorldMUN-delegation being the most successful in the club history.

With taking over the Chair of Vocational, Economic and Business Education in April, Professor Dr. Andreas Rausch has strengthened the Area of Economic and Business Education. He is succeeding Professor Dr. Sabine Matthäus, who entered retirement during the last fall semester. In research and teaching, Professor Rausch focuses among other things on learning in the workplace and the measurement of professional competences. Andreas Rausch studied at the University of Bamberg. Since 2004, he had worked there as a research assistant and earned his doctorate in 2010 on the subject: “Experiencing and Learning in the Workplace Undergoing Vocational Training”. Before his transfer to Mannheim, he contributed to the Chair of Economic and Business Education as a research assistant for the University of Bamberg.

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Höhle has taken over the Chair of Enterprise Systems (Business Informatics IV) of the Business School at the beginning of the current fall/winter semester. He has achieved his doctorate at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His last tenure included the position of assistant professor at the University of Arkansas. Professor Höhle’s research interests cover the design, implementation and use of enterprise systems as well as the management of its security.

www.mun-mannheim.de
Q-Summit Conference

Getting into the Entrepreneurial Spirit

2.5 days of conference, over 500 participants, 23 speakers, 17 workshops, 2 evening events in the castle: The first Q-Summit at the University of Mannheim had a lot to offer.

The 70-member team achieved it: Bringing the big wide startup-world and a unique spirit to the University of Mannheim was the declared goal. But what is special about this conference that does not only embed the topic of entrepreneurship in the daily university life, but also wants to enable the connection between well-established companies, young, motivated students and startups?

It all started with an internship in Berlin, which brought Fabian Sinn, who studies business administration in his fourth Bachelor semester, the idea of founding Q-Summit. Back in Mannheim, he could quickly find a group of supporters among friends and fellow students. After several pitches for people in charge at the University as well as potential partners, many hours of planning and long nights of preparation on April 19, 2017, the announcement could finally be heard: “Welcome to the very first Q-Summit at the University of Mannheim!”

Launching the Q-Summit, ten startups in the founding-phase competed in a so-called pitch-battle to present their business propositions. The conference participants, mostly students from the University of Mannheim, were then able to vote for the most convincing team via app. Added to the score of a three-member jury, the votes then determined the winning startup: Emailbrief was pleased to win 1,500 Euro, a trip to the international start-up conference Slush in Helsinki and legal counseling free of charge.

The second conference day started with a home track advantage for Lea-Sophie Cramer, founder of the online erotic-store Amorelie and Bachelor Alumna of the University of Mannheim, Business School. She presented her own founding history. A highlight among conference visitors on this day was the talk by Dr. Carsten Linz, the global leader of the Center for Digital Leadership SAP, who shared his ideas on the topic of digital leadership with his audience. Roman Kirsch revealed his ten lessons he learned in entrepreneurship. He is a multiple founder, who established amongst other startups the online-discounter for clothes and household-supplies, Lesara. In the evening, the conference participants together with entrepreneurs and company representatives celebrated in the Schneckenhof.

On top of the many presentations, pitches and workshops, the Q-summit team put great emphasis on the various possibilities for students and future-founders to casually get in touch with experienced entrepreneurs while enjoying wine tastings or coffee breaks. The “Startup Village” in the Schneckenhof helped to improve these dialogues. It served as a type of market place, which formed Q-Summit’s central point with stalls for snacks and drinks. The “village” also hosted the so-called Talent Pitches, in which startups could present themselves as an employer much to the delight of the conference visitors. The Q-Summit team was really content with the conference and is already planning a follow-up for 2018.

www.q-summit.com
**Awards**

**FORMER DEAN OF THE BUSINESS SCHOOL RECEIVES HONORARY SENATORSHIP**

During this year’s University Day of the University of Mannheim, Dr. Jürgen M. Schneider, former dean of the University of Mannheim, Business School, was awarded with the honorary senatorship for his contributions to the University. After his time as a student and doctoral student at the University of Mannheim, Dr. Jürgen M. Schneider remained strongly committed to the university not only as its dean.

**AACSB HONORS MANNHEIM’S CHAIR OF CSR FOR ITS INNOVATIVE TEACHING MODEL**

During the most recent “Dean’s Conference” of the accreditation agency AACSB, the course “CSR Issues as Video Documentaries” taught by CSR-professor Laura-Marie Schons was recognized as especially innovative. Hence, the University of Mannheim, Business School was honored as a “future-oriented Business School.” 315 projects from 33 countries applied for the AACSB-competition called “Innovations That Inspire.”

**PROFESSOR BRAUER NOMINATED NEW MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF “JOM”**

Matthias Brauer, Professor for Strategic and International Management, was nominated a new member of the editorial board of the worldwide renowned publication *Journal of Management*. Until June 2020, he will support the journal with his expertise in peer reviews. The appointment for his membership followed on invitation and due to Professor Brauer’s outstanding reputation in management-research.

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION TEACHING AWARD 2017 FOR TWO MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY**

The professors Laura-Marie Schons and Jens Wüstemann received this year’s teaching award of the student association “Fachschaft BWL” of the Business School and were honored for their outstanding commitment in teaching. For the first time, the annual prize was awarded to two members of the faculty. The Teaching Award is regularly assigned to professors, Chairs or Areas, who excelled in teaching according to Business Administration students.

**PROFESSOR FLEISCHMANN’S ARTICLE ONE OF THE MOST QUOTED ARTICLES IN THE HISTORY OF EJOR**

In honor of its 40th anniversary, the *European Journal of Operations Research* (EJOR) published a special edition with the 40 most influential contributions since its formation. On the eighth place, Moritz Fleischman’s article “Quantitative models for reverse logistics: A review” is listed. Fleischman is professor for logistics and was quoted on this article 1023-times according to the citation database Scopus and 2476-times according to Google Scholar.

**WOLFGANG RITTER PRICE FOR PROFESSOR SCHONS**

Laura-Marie Schons, Professor for Corporate Social Responsibility, has received the Wolfgang-Ritter-Prize of the foundation of the same name for her habilitation thesis “Essays on Corporate Social Responsibility and Marketing - CSR Strategy, Communication, and Innovative Pricing” in Bremen. The prize, endowed with 10,000 Euro, annually honors scientific achievements in the areas of economics and business administration.

**TOP PLACEMENT FOR PROF. HOMBURG IN THE WORLDWIDE RANKING FOR MARKETING RESEARCHERS**

Once again, Christian Homburg, Professor for Business-to-Business Marketing, Sales & Pricing, could achieve a top placement in the ranking by the American Marketing Association, the most important marketing ranking worldwide. With a total number of 22 publications in the leading research journals *Journal of Marketing* and *Journal of Marketing Research*, he placed second internationally and remains the only German researcher in the top ten.

**PROFESSOR MAUG PLACES SECOND IN THE FINANCIAL COMPASS COMPETITION**

Along with his research colleagues Alexander Hillert and Stefan Obernberger, Ernst Maug, Professor for corporate finance, placed second at the Financial Compass competition of the Finanzplatz Hamburg e.V. Their outstanding study focuses on the influence of stock buybacks on the liquidity of stocks. The Financial Compass prize aims to honor innovative scientific research and projects related to the area of finance and insurance.

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRIZE FOR JUNIOR SCIENTISTS**

Dr. Marten Risius, former assistant professor at the Chair of Business Informatics I, Professor Heinzl, was awarded with this year’s Prize for Junior Scientists by the German Academic Association for Business Research (VHB) for his dissertation “Social Media Management: Advancing Social Media Analytics and Engagement”. The award ceremony took place in June during the VHB Pentecost-meeting. Risius currently teaches as an assistant professor at the Clemson University in South Carolina (USA).
People & Research

IFM MANNHEIM STARTS INTERDISCIPLINARY JUNIOR RESEARCH GROUP

In June 2017, the interdisciplinary junior research group “platforms2share” was launched at the Institute for SME Research and Entrepreneurship (ifm) under the direction of Dr. Dominika Wruk. The group conducts research on platform-organizations in the digital sharing economy. The project is supported for five years, falling under the category of “Social-Ecological Research” as part of “Research for sustainable development (FONA),” a program of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Further partners include the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics in Stuttgart and the Institute for Ecological Economy Research in Berlin.

INSTITUTE FOR ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS LAUNCHES “CLOUD MALL BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG”

Aiming at providing a community platform for users and providers of cloud computing from different industries and lowering entry barriers, the Ministry for Economics, Labor and Housing Construction Baden-Württemberg has set up the project “Cloud Mall BW.” The Institute for Enterprise Systems (INES) at the University of Mannheim with Managing Director Professor Dr. Armin Heinzl, Chair of Business Informatics I, is significantly involved in the development and implementation of the project. Launch date was March 30, 2017 in Stuttgart, where together with bwcon GmbH and the Fraunhofer Institutes for Labor Economy and Organization, and Production Techniques and Automatization successful practical examples and flexible solutions for small- and medium-sized business were presented.

TWO BEST PAPER AWARDS FOR THE ENDOWED CHAIR OF PROCUREMENT

Double award for Christoph Bode: At the 77th Academy of Management Conference in Atlanta, the Professor for Procurement and Maximilian Merto received the renown Chan Hahn Best Paper Award for their article “Supply Disruption Management: The Early Bird Catches the Worm, but the Second Mouse Gets the Cheese?” Additionally, Professor Bode and Michael Westerburg were awarded with the Best Paper in Supply Chain Management Award, which is endowed with 1000 US-Dollar by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM).

BUSINESS SCHOOL WELCOMES HUMBOLDT SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AS GUEST RESEARCHERS

Holding the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s scholarship, Dr. Ryan J. Riordan of the Queen’s University at Kingston, Kingston, Canada and Dr. Patricia Arias-Cabarcos of the Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, Spain, are guests of the University of Mannheim, Business School for this year and the following. Dr. Arias-Cabarcos followed Prof. Dr. Christian Becker’s invitation and conducts research on the topic of “Digital Identity Management”, namely the digital identification of users through their heart rate and eye movement. Throughout his time in Mannheim, Dr. Riordan conducts research on the liquidity of fund-portfolios and high frequency trading at the stock exchange. Dr. Riordan followed the invitation of Prof. Dr. Erik Theissen.

Faculty of the Business School Belongs to Most Influential Economists in Germany

Three Professors of the University of Mannheim Business School were able to place themselves in this year’s F.A.Z.-economists-ranking and belong to Germany’s most influential researchers: According to the F.A.Z. ranking, Christian Homburg, Christoph Spengel and Martin Weber belong to the group of 100 researchers, that “is heard by the media, appreciated by politicians as advisors and gives impulses to research, that encourages other researchers to cite their work.” In the overall ranking Professor Spengel is placed 91, Professor Homburg and Professor Weber are ranked on the tenth and 30th place respectively in the category “Research”.

* F.A.Z.-Ökonomenranking 2017, faz.net

“FT Masters in Management Ranking 2017”
Rank 12 worldwide.

“QS World University Ranking by Subject 2017”
Best German university in the area management, rank 65 worldwide.

“CHE”-Ranking (ZEIT Study Guide 2017/18)
Business School placed in top position in 15 categories

“UTD Top 100 Business Research Rankings 2017”
Business School remains the only German institution in the ranking, rank 99 out of 100 worldwide.

“Masters in Management 2017”
(Economist)
Rank 8 out of 40 for the program “Mannheim Master in Management”
Social Project Contest of the University of Mannheim, Business School

Involvement will be Rewarded!

For the second year in a row, student initiatives of the University of Mannheim were called to hand in social project proposals to compete in the Business School’s “Social Project Contest”. The project “Clothing the Gap” of the initiative Enactus Mannheim convinced the jury and receives 1,010 Euro seed money. The project aims to offer suitable clothes for wheelchair-users.

In June, the University of Mannheim, Business School once more was searching for projects of initiatives which try to offer solutions for social problems but suffer from a lack of seed capital. The winning team receives the revenues generated through the sale of “class wine” at the Bachelor graduate ceremonies. This amount is furthermore doubled by the Mannheim Business School. This year the donation amounts to 1,010 Euro. “The Social Project Contest proves how much potential exists among the students of the University of Mannheim. This year again we received great applications of projects, which all deserve funding. The decision was not an easy one,” Dr. Ingo Bayer, Managing Director of the Business School, explains.

One of the contestants was Enactus Mannheim with its project “Clothing the Gap”. The concept of the group to produce and sell suitable pants for wheelchair-users was convincing and thus chosen as the winning project. “The project’s name hints at the existing gap in the market: Suitable, affordable and fashionable clothes are unfortunately a rare find for people with disabilities, who depend on a wheelchair.” Pauline Machtolf, one of the project leaders of “Clothing the Gap” and student of Economic and Business Education, knows what she is talking about: Ever since a sports accident, her best friend is paraplegic and Pauline intensively informed herself about the daily challenges handicapped people are confronted with.

Together with other Enactus members she started to take action one year ago. The group discovered that, for wheelchair-users, pants have to fulfill other requirements than conventional jeans: they have to be comfortable without hip pockets, have a waistband that goes high enough while sitting, longer pants legs, a magnetic fastener, in case the wearer has trouble buttoning up, and straps to support pulling the pants up. However, the range of suitable clothes is very limited and overpriced. Most of the models cost between 100 and 120 Euro. Often wheelchair-users are forced to wear sweatpants which some perceive as degrading.

Thus the group worked on “Clothing the Gap” to produce a comfortable and affordable pair of pants. The first model are women’s denim blue pants, more models and colors are in development. A fashion-startup from Karlsruhe soon shall start serial production of the pants. Therefore, the funding provided by the “Social Project Contest” comes just at the right moment: With this financial help, the prototype of the pants can be further optimized. Another crowdfunding-campaign is scheduled to start this fall and around Christmas time at the latest “Clothing the Gap” wants to sell their first pants. 

unimannheim.enactus.de/blog/projekte/clothing-the-gap/