

Thanks Everybody for a Great Reunion!



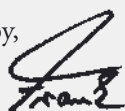
Taken by Sabine Pittrof during the Reunion Dinner in Frankfurt/Main. DeAN e.V. thanks all attendees—hope to see you again next year! More photos from Sabine inside!

Editor's note

Summer is over, but then it's time again to snuggle up inside, bake cookies and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate (or hot wine)! So it's not all miserable, just different.

However, if you are keen to experience 40 degrees Celsius on Christmas Eve, have seafood instead of goose and see Santa sweating under his beard you may be interested in what our newest institutional members can offer you: australien-studium.org and juststudies! tell you inside how they can help you to realise your dream!

Enjoy,



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... and more!

Dear fellow DeAN-members,

Another great reunion passed by, and we were lucky again with the weather: a perfect blue sky formed a formidable frame for Frankfurt's magnificent skyline. We met in a traditional apple wine restaurant called "Zum Gemalten Haus" on Friday night, and were also able to taste traditional Hessian food there. Saturday started with a tour of Germany's highest building, the Commerzbank tower, which has quite a few architectural specialties to offer. I am sure that everyone enjoyed the rides with the elevator. After that, we had a guided city walk through Frankfurt. I must admit that it was the first time that I went into the reconstructed Goethe House, which was very interesting. The combination of old, modern and reconstructed buildings seems to be a special feature of Frankfurt.

In the evening we had our traditional reunion dinner at the restaurant "Zum Schwarzen Stern" situated opposite of one of Frankfurt's most prominent sites, the Römer, Frankfurt's city hall.

We started with a champagne reception. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and it was a great honour to have the Australian consul general of Frankfurt with us at the reception.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors for this year's reunion: the University of New South Wales, UNSW Law Alumni, the HfB – Business School of Finance and Management in Frankfurt, and the University of Adelaide. We thank all our sponsors for their great support for this year's reunion! Your continuing support for the cause of DeAN is very much appreciated!

We are also grateful that so many representatives of our sponsors and institutional members managed to take part in this year's reunion. Meg

Debus-Rogers from UNSW found the right words when she said that taking part in our reunions feels like coming together to meet friends. Meg, thank you very much for your kind words! I would also like to thank Brigitte Gebhard from HfB, Helen Cook from the University of Queensland and John Taplin from the University of Adelaide for attending our reunion for the second or third time, and Dr. Simone Degeling, who represented UNSW Law Alumni for the first time. We sincerely hope to see you all again at next year's reunion.

I also want to thank all our members and guests taking part in this reunion. It was great to talk to many of you, and I hope to see as many of you as possible on one of our next events. Speaking of which, our next European reunion will take place in the region of Munich in September 2007. We still have to discuss whether we will have the reunion during Oktoberfest time, which might be a bit difficult with hotels, etc. However, I am confident that we will manage to organise another great reunion next year one way or another.

Please watch out for our next regional meetings which will be announced on the website and via e-mail. If you would like to organise something, please contact us. We will try to organise some meetings on Christmas markets.

A warm welcome to our new member

Tim Helle (Borchen)

and our two new institutional members

australien-studium.org

represented by Prof. Dr. Dr. J. Leslie Keedy

juststudies!

represented by Christoph Raszczyk

Are your contact details up-to-date?

We would like to ask all of our members to help us keep our record of your contact details up-to-date. If you have recently moved virtually and/or physically please let us know care of this e-mail-address:

mitgliederverwaltung@dean-online.de

Finally, I would like to thank the organisers of this year's reunion, in particular Tim and Steffi, Peter and Marc. You have done a great job with the organisation, and everybody seemed to enjoy the get-together at Frankfurt.

Congratulations to Tim, who has been promoted to a challenging new position at Commerzbank. Sadly, this means that he will leave the board of DeAN. He has done an excellent job, so thank you very much, Tim. We hope to find a successor for Tim soon.

Our vice-president, Ulrike Schröter, will also leave the board due to her new job, and we will name her successor after our next board meeting which is scheduled for November.

That is all from my part, thank you all for your continuing support,

Jörg



20.09.2006: Artikel bei Spiegel.de: Wachsendes Fernweh

Spiegel Online berichtet über das wachsende Fernweh deutscher Studenten. Insbesondere Australien steht inzwischen ganz oben wenn es nach der Zuwachsrate geht. In den letzten drei Jahren hat sich die Anzahl vervierfacht. Diese Zahl stimmt mit denen unserer institutionellen Mitglieder überein, die uns am Rande der Reunion ebenfalls von hohen Zuwachsraten berichteten.

Artikel bei Spiegel.de: Wachsendes Fernweh, <http://www.spiegel.de/unispiegel/studium/0,1518,437320,00.html>

19.09.2006: „go out! studieren weltweit“

Die Bundesregierung und der Deutsche Akademische Austausch Dienst (DAAD) haben zusammen die Kam-

pagne „go out! studieren weltweit“ gestartet. Ziel ist es den Anteil deutscher Studierender mit studienbezogenen Auslandsaufenthalten deutlich zu erhöhen.

Weitere Infos auf der Webseite www.go-out.de, <http://www.go-out.de/>

10.09.2006: Neue Webseite der Australischen Botschaft in Berlin

Die Australische Botschaft in Berlin hat ihre Webseite überarbeitet. Gleichzeitig mit dem Relaunch wurde die Adresse geändert.

Die Webseite ist nun zu finden unter: <http://www.germany.embassy.gov.au/>



Herzlich Willkommen! – G'Day!

Australien-Info-Party

Mittwoch, 8. November 2006

19:00 h

in

HfB – Business School of Finance & Management

Sonnemannstr. 9 - 11, Raum 10

60314 Frankfurt

Begrüßung durch Auslandsamt & DeAN e.V.

(Anmeldung an Frau Gebhart: gebhart@hfb.de)

Profiles from our Institutional Members

Auf den folgenden Seiten präsentieren die beiden neuesten institutionellen Mitglieder von DeAN e.V., australien-studium.org und juststudies!, ihre Dienstleistungen.



Professor Keedy is the founder of australien-studium.org.

Until his retirement in 2005 he was C4-Professor and Head of the Department of

Computer Structures at the University of Ulm. He has held similar positions at both the Technical University of Darmstadt and the University of Bremen in Germany. He has also been a Senior Lecturer at Monash University and was the Foundation Professor of Computer Science at the University of Newcastle, NSW. in Australia

In 1998, while I was a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Ulm, as an Australian I inevitably became caught up in the German move towards the internationalisation of tertiary education. At first I was mainly involved with the introduction of bachelor and master degrees in Germany, but later I also got caught up in arranging for German students to spend time in Australian universities. Although I had worked for many years before this in universities in both countries, I had not previously been actively involved in such matters, and so I was very surprised to discover how the Study Abroad system in particular functions: German students who are not lucky enough to obtain a place in a formal exchange program—and that means most students—have to pay full fees for spending a semester or two in Australia.

Although this is justifiable in terms of the Australian universities' funding

arrangements, I found it not very attractive or fair to German students. International students who come to Australia to study for a whole bachelor or master degree at least get an appropriate qualification for what they pay. But Study Abroad students return to Germany with nothing except, hopefully, a good experience and a nice memory of Australian beaches, etc.

Consequently I began advising my students in Ulm about how they could spend a year at an Australian university and return home with a bachelor or master degree in their pockets. At first I arranged for students with an Informatik-Vordiplom to go directly into the third year of a Bachelor of Computer Science (B.Comp.Sc.) degree. It is by no means easy to arrange this, because it involves getting the Vordiplom recognised as completely equivalent to the first two years of a B.Comp.Sc. degree. Fortunately, I have many contacts in Australian academia who trust my judgement and my knowledge of the German system! The first Ulm student returned from Australia at the end of 2001 as the proud possessor of a bachelor degree, which he obtained with high distinctions in all his subjects. In the next year four further students followed his example, and so my "work" in this area began to grow. Since then this work has spread out in several directions. In addition to the bachelor degree mentioned above, I can now offer (some) students the following possibilities in two semesters:

- ☞ a bachelor degree, as already described,
- ☞ an honours degree, by first establishing "bachelor equiva-

lence" and good enough marks to enter the honours course, and ☞ a master degree in two semesters, by establishing both bachelor equivalence and obtaining additional advanced standing for a further semester.

In addition, I now try to help students from any German university or Fachhochschule, and I try to help students who are studying any academic subject. Some of the subjects where I have been successful include, for example, honours degrees in mathematics and in computer science, bachelor degrees in psychology (and most variants of computer science such as multimedia, information and business systems, digital systems, etc.) and master degrees in information technology and in economics and commerce subjects.

Including those currently studying I have arranged for about 60 students from universities and Fachhochschulen throughout Germany to go to Australia to obtain degrees, and so far all have been successful. The number of students who obtain my help is growing year by year. (It is fortunate that I have now retired. Otherwise I would not be able to keep up with the number of students who request my help!)

I do my utmost to support my students. Apart from the standard help with translations, visa advice, etc. I try to be in Australia when students actually arrive, in case they encounter problems. For example last year one of my students forgot to bring the originals of her transcripts and was in panic because the admissions office was demanding these. I was able to

help by providing the officials with my personal guarantee that I had sighted the originals.

I have also been able to help students who have met with unexpected problems on their return to Germany. For example, the Prüfungsamt of a Fachhochschule insisted on converting the Australian marks of two students using a linear scale (which in most cases is unjustified), and when they initially appealed against this they were (wrongly) told by the officials that the conversion scale which had been used (the so called "Bayerische Formel") was required by state law. The students then asked me for help. I wrote to the Prüfungsamt and to the Chairman of the faculty examination committee, pointing out both that the conversion method was not required by state law and that it was inappropriate. I also helped the students to formulate a further appeal, with the result that the marks conversion scale which I had recommended was accepted.

In another recent case a student who had obtained a bachelor degree in Australia and wanted to continue her Diplom in Germany received a bill for "Studiengebühren" for her first semester back in Germany, on the grounds that she had already obtained a "berufsqualifizierender" degree in Australia, so that she was allegedly now embarking on a second study. In this case I was able to obtain evidence

from both Australia and Germany which eventually led to the university repaying the Studiengebühren.

In the latter two cases, I indicated to the students that I would be prepared to appear as an expert witness in a court case, if necessary. Fortunately, this was not necessary: the threat of this was apparently sufficient to solve the problems. In such cases my status as a professor and my detailed knowledge of both the German and Australian systems is an enormous help.

One final point. Helping students in this way is mostly a very satisfying experience, but it is sometimes difficult or impossible to obtain for them the advanced standing needed to fulfil their wishes or hopes. Difficulties can arise because the students simply have not taken equivalent courses in Germany to those in Australia, but sometimes they arise because some Australian universities can be very uncooperative about advanced standing. There is often a lot of work involved in obtaining advanced standing into a degree, which students do not always realise, and some students are inevitably disappointed when it does not work out as planned. In such cases we have to fall back on a Study Abroad programme for them!

juststudies! bietet eine einzigartige Vielzahl an verschiedenen Bildungsprogrammen im englischsprachigen Ausland an. Durch eine jahrelange Expertise gilt juststudies als Spezialist im Bereich des Education Systems der Länder Australien, Großbritannien, Kanada, Neuseeland, USA, und hilft Ihnen kompetent bei allen entstehenden Auslandsfragen weiter.

Das Angebot umfasst jedoch nicht nur englischsprachige Sprachschulen, High Schools, Colleges und Universitäten. Bei juststudies finden Sie eine Vielzahl an speziellen

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Upcoming Events

When	What	Where	Contact / Info
Jeden 1. Mittwoch eines geraden Monats	Stammtisch, DeAN-Mitglieder und UNSW Law Alumni	Berlin, in wechselnden Lokalen	Michael Kratz michael.kratz@dean-online.de
Jeden 2. Monat	Stammtisch	München, in wechselnden Lokalen	Eva Riemann eva.riemann@dean-online.de
Jeden 2. Monat	Stammtisch	Rhein-Main, in wechselnden Lokalen	Tim Hesse tim.hesse@dean-online.de



Deadline / Submissions

Copy deadline for Issue 4/2006 (December) is November 15th.
Publication of Issue 4/2006 will be in December.

We welcome and encourage members and non-members to contribute to the DeAN-Newsletter. You could, for example, share your experiences of studying in Australia with others who are about to make that bold move themselves. If you are an Australian who has spent a few semesters in Germany we would also love to hear from you. ("Tipps zum Schreiben eines Erfahrungsberichts" can be downloaded from our website.) Alternatively, if you have recently read a book on Australia (fiction or non-fiction) you may like to share your views. This also applies to films or music, which may not be in the mainstream, but which, in your opinion, ought to be better known. Or perhaps you would like to write about something else? All of your ideas are welcome!

Your contributions should come in Rich Text- or Microsoft Word-Format. Please keep the design simple, use a common font (e.g. Arial 12pt), straight quotation marks ("...") and please don't hyphenate words manually. We request that photographs or images are submitted in digital format (EPS, TIFF or JPEG) and have a resolution of 300 dpi for the intended printing size. If you don't own the copyright in any of the pictures that you submit, please let us know. We, of course, retain the right to edit contributions.

Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you,

DeAN contact

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