

New Year's Reception 2022

Film "Universitätsgesellschaft Potsdam e.V." (University Society) | Transcript

Nadine Buske:

On behalf of the Universitätsgesellschaft Potsdam (university society), I also wish you a healthy and happy new year.

I am Nadine Buske and I am the head of the university society's coordination office. For those of you who don't know it yet: This is a very active association of friends, supporters, and alumni of the University of Potsdam. You have an innovative idea about how to enrich life here on campus, but you lack financial support? Are you looking for contact with alumni, but lack the network? The university society fills these and other gaps with great offers and opportunities.

My colleague Finja Schmidt will introduce one of the opportunities we offer today. Finja, what were your highlights last year?

Finja Schmidt:

Hello to all viewers, so my highlight was definitely creating an evening as part of International Tuesday. A format that took place here on the beautiful „Inselbühne“ (island stage) in Potsdam. That's where we were able to perform musical excerpts of our play "The Life of Galileo" in September.

Nadine Buske:

That looks really fantastic! Was there another highlight last year?

Finja Schmidt:

Yes, that was definitely the „Better World Award“, which we presented together with the Land Brandenburg Lotto GmbH. This award is aimed at master's theses and dissertations that make a decisive contribution to the further development of our community.

Nadine Buske:

And will that continue in the new year? So will the award be presented again?

Finja Schmidt:

It should definitely continue. So please apply, spread the word – it's worth it.

And now I'd like to give the floor to our chairman of the advisory board, Mr. Jann Jakobs. Mr. Jakobs, what were your highlights?

Jann Jakobs:

I thought it was great that we got our communications concept off the ground. We want to address a wide variety of people: We want to attract alumni, students, employees of the university. But of course also people from outside the university – company members, for example, so that they can also become members of the university society. But of course they have to be addressed in different ways, and that's why we need different communication channels. Our new logo was also created in this context. And I think it looks somewhat fresher and also more up-to-date.

Then I would definitely like to mention that we have also actively designed our Senior Fellows Network. Here we have dealt very intensively with the topic of digital sovereignty, among other things. We organized a lecture series and expert discussions. And I would also like to announce one more thing: This year, in 2022, we want to finally launch our „Academic Living Room“. The idea here is that we want to make the topic of "living" our subject, which is a hot topic in societal discourse. You have something to look forward to.

Nadine Buske:

There has been a lot going on, Mr. Jakobs.

Mr. Wagner is our association's chairman. Mr. Wagner, do you have anything to add?

Prof. Dieter Wagner:

Yes, I am very happy to add my two cents. In addition to the Better World Award, we also award prizes for the outstanding dissertation and for the best graduate. And for the past two years, we have also added the Inclusion and Diversity Award.

Nadine Buske:

And what specifically is planned for 2022?

Prof. Dieter Wagner:

In 2022, we want to continue to breathe life into the newly founded alumni chapters of Jewish Theology and Sports, want to found a new chapter for Startups and Transfer, and also for Slavic Languages. And then we plan to celebrate our 30th anniversary in the summer with a big party for all members.

And what do you have on your agenda, dear Ms. Buske?

Nadine Buske:

I am particularly looking forward to this year's university ball. After a year-long break due to COVID, it will hopefully take place again in the summer. As a university society, we always organize the raffle with really fantastic prizes.

And a fixed event in the society's calendar is of course the annual asparagus dinner. About a hundred members of the society meet for a culinary evening in Klaistow. But our members also network in small groups, for example at chapter events.

Jann Jakobs:

Isn't that all impressive? And on top of that, we sponsor conferences or student projects. Wouldn't you like to become a member, too?

Prof. Dieter Wagner:

Maybe you will even become our thousandth member. And if that's the case, you get to sit next to the president of the university at the asparagus dinner.

All:

It's worth it!

Prof. Dieter Wagner:

And we also co-financed the reception afterwards. We cordially invite you to join us. Please follow us to the dining hall.