



50 years of HU Choir: Shared musical experience and commitment

The Humboldt-Universität choir (photo) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. What makes a choir so special? The shared musical experience and a special cohesion - this is how members of the choir describe it. Music teacher Peter Vagts founded the choir in 1975 with the idea that students of music education could continue their education here. However, students of other subjects and members of staff were also welcome from the outset. In contrast to other choirs at the HU, the repertoire consists mainly of a cappella works from the 16th to 20th centuries. The choir, which has been under the direction of Carsten Schultze since 2008, continues to delight audiences at performances throughout Germany and internationally. Master's student Matthes Korthase has been singing in the choir for two years and is a member of the board. In an interview, he talks about the highlights of choir life, how singing enthusiasts can get involved and what will be on offer at the anniversary concert on 11 June.

[Read the interview with Matthes Korthase](#)

[Find out more about the HU Choir and get involved](#)

Out of line

Clusters of Excellence: Decision made on future funding

The decision on the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments was made on 22 May. In future, five Clusters of Excellence will be funded at Berlin universities. Humboldt-Universität is involved in a total of four clusters: In the MATH+ and NeuroCure clusters as a co-applicant and also via sub-projects in the SCRIPTS and Immunoprecept clusters. The clusters will each receive up to ten million euros in annual funding from 2026 to 2032. HU President Julia von Blumenthal congratulates the successful clusters. At the same time, she expresses her regret that the HU Cluster Matters of Activity (MoA) and the Cluster of Excellence Science of Intelligence (SCIoI) will no longer be funded and thanks those involved for their commitment.

[Read report on Clusters of Excellence on the intranet](#)

Research & Teaching

Teaching theme week: Sustainable teaching and learning

From 3 to 5 June, the theme week for teaching will take place under the motto 'Sustainable teaching and learning'. Staff and students are cordially invited to take part in workshops, panel discussions, guided tours, science slams and many other events. This year, the theme week starts with the Humboldt Day of Teaching, on which the Award for Good Teaching will also be presented, and ends with the Circle U. Climate Day, which will be organised simultaneously at all nine Circle U universities.

[View the full programme of the theme week](#)

Humboldt University Medal: Richard Schröder is honoured

As a co-founder of the Social Democratic Party in the GDR and a committed intellectual, Prof. em. Dr Dr h.c. Richard Schröder has significantly shaped the political and academic discourse since the fall of communism. During his time at the HU, the Protestant theologian and philosopher - including as a university lecturer, dean, vice president and chairman of the council - provided decisive impetus for a democratic and self-critical academic culture. The university will honour him for his outstanding commitment on 7 July with the Humboldt University Medal. This will be followed by the panel discussion 'Humboldt-Universität and the Peaceful Revolution'. From 17 to 19:30 in the HU ballroom at Luisenstraße 56. Registration is requested by 30 June: Veranstaltungen@hu-berlin.de

[Find out more about the award ceremony](#)

Discussion: 'AI, (social) media and research' on 2 June

New technological developments such as AI, social media and digital platforms and the resulting new forms of responsibility in research and society are at the centre of this discussion forum. It will be hosted by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digitality and Digital Methods of the HU at Campus Mitte (IZ D2MCM). All interested Humboldtians are cordially invited to take part in this discussion on 2 June from 16:00 to 18:00 in the atrium of the main building, Unter den Linden 6. Registration is possible until 28 May.

[Further information and registration](#)

Conference: Democracy and well-being in digital spaces

The conference 'Empowering People in Online Spaces: Democracy and Well-being in Digital Societies' of the Weizenbaum Institute will take place on 4 and 5 June. Research approaches dealing with the empowerment of individuals and society in digital spaces will be discussed. The conference aims to examine the associated processes from the perspective of citizens and users. Ultimately, it aims to connect research that lies at the intersection of digital technologies, democratic participation and individual well-being. The event will take place at 'bUm - Raum für solidarisches Miteinander', Paul-Lincke-Ufer 21. Participation is free of charge. Registration is required.

[Find out more and register](#)

The Centre for British Studies: 30th anniversary

The Centre for British Studies celebrates its 30th anniversary on 5 June. The Centre was founded in recognition of British support of Berlin during the Cold War, and has developed into a highly active research and teaching institute with a wide-ranging network of academic contacts. The anniversary event will include welcome addresses by Prof Gesa Stedman, director of the GBZ, Vice-President for Research Prof Christoph Schneider, and Lord McDonald of Salford, the chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board, and former British Ambassador to Germany. The rest of the programme will be chaired by journalist and board member Annette Dittert, correspondent for the ARD in London, and will comprise videos by alumni from all over the world, and a desert-island-disk-style trip down memory lane. The evening will end with a Ceilidh - Celtic music and dancing with the Berlin-based band Nightlark - and a reception. The event will take place in Lichthof Ost and start at 5:30pm. Please register here: gbz@gbz.hu-berlin.de

Circle U.: Climate Day on 5 June

To mark World Environment Day, the European university alliance Circle U. is organising its first Europe-wide Climate Day. A varied programme of workshops, discussions, exhibitions and guided tours will be on offer. The day offers the opportunity to meet committed researchers and students from the nine Circle U. universities and gain insights into current research, teaching and initiatives relating to the topic of climate. Registration is required for some programmes.

[View the virtual programme](#)

[Find events at the HU](#)

Invitation: Open Circle U. semester meeting on 11 June

What and who is Circle U.? All Humboldtians are invited to the open semester meeting to gain an overview of the activities of the Alliance and to get to know the team, the Academic Chairs and the student representatives. A World Café offers the opportunity to find out about the Alliance's key concerns and endeavours and to get involved in discussions. The event will be followed by an opportunity for personal dialogue and networking. The meeting will take place on 11 June from 16:00 to 18:00 in room 2249a in the main building, Unter den Linden 6. Participants from the HU can join without prior registration.

Long Night of the Sciences: 5-euro tickets for the anniversary

On 28 June, Humboldt-Universität will also be opening its doors to young and old for the Long Night of the Sciences - from 5 pm to midnight. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Science Night - and with a special offer: admission costs just 5 euros. Tickets are available online and at the box office. Around 50 scientific institutions across Berlin are taking part with more than 1,000 programme items. At the HU alone, scientists from all departments have prepared almost 200 programmes for knowledge-hungry people of all ages. The programme ranges from robot football and oceans in a beaker to an open greenhouse. Among other things, the organisers of the children's university, together with researchers from the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, invite you to playfully explore green hydrogen. Guests from the European University Viadrina will provide information on the history of protest in Ukraine. Highlights of the Late Night programme include a medieval concert in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and the lecture theatre cinema on the Adlershof campus.

[Further information on the programme at HU](#)

Circle U. - COIL: Funding for European online teaching

Circle U. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) invites HU teaching staff to organise innovative online teaching collaborations with European partner universities. Whether in existing courses or newly designed - COIL promotes international cooperation and digital teaching. Projects that enable students to gain intercultural learning experiences are funded with up to 5,000 euros. The COIL elements can be designed flexibly and across disciplines. The application deadline is 30 June.

[Read the call for applications](#)

[Apply for COIL funding](#)

Alumni work: An active network

In its alumni work, HU focuses on lively interaction: students, alumni and staff are invited to be part of an active network that fosters exchange, mutual support and long-term ties with the university. This is made possible through participation in events, further training and other forms of non-material and financial involvement. Kathrin Fiehn organises the central alumni work at the HU and gives an insight into the special features and challenges of her work in this interview.

[Read interview with Kathrin Fiehn](#)

Administration & Service

HU goes Team Relay: Colleagues wanted to cheer us on!

The Berliner Wasserbetriebe relay race starts on 3 June. The challenge is 5 x 5 kilometres. The winners of our team relay prize draw announced in March will be taking part. In addition to the sporting challenge, the aim is to promote the upcoming water exhibition at the Humboldt Labor 'On Water, WaterKnowledge in Berlin'. What is still missing? Mental support for the runners from 17:00 at the running course in Tiergarten. The route is not only worthwhile for passionate endurance runners. In addition to the runners from the prize draw, other HU teams will be at the start. The planned meeting point is the path into the Tiergarten at Scheidemannstraße/Bus stop Platz der Republik.

[Read more about the teams](#)

Hands-on activity: Nature observation in the Späth Arboretum

Exploring nature undisturbed and documenting the diversity of species - these are the opportunities open to participants in the Späth Arboretum's 'Bioblitz' hands-on activity. As part of Botanic Gardens Week from 14 to 22 June, visitors can report their observations of nature via an app and thus document the diversity of species. The most diverse garden, the best photos and the most active visitors will be honoured in the Germany-wide campaign. Anyone who has become particularly fond of a plant in the Späth Arboretum can also sponsor a plant at any time and thus contribute to the preservation of the nursery.

[Read more about Bioblitz activity](#)

[Find out more about the join-in campaign](#)

Save the Date: Midsommarfest on 20 June

Under the motto 'Folklore meets top-class sport', HU University Sport is combining a traditional Swedish Midsummer festival with the theme of (top-class) sport. Participants can expect an interactive and colourful Midsommar magic. For all Sweden fans, traditional trees, music, movement and lots of Midsommar magic. For all Sweden fans, exchange students and (top) sports enthusiasts. The event takes place on 20 June from 13:00 to 18:00 in the courtyard of the main building, Unter den Linden 6.

[All information about the Midsommarfest](#)

City cycling: 729 Humboldtians cycle for the climate

Every metre by bike counts: Humboldtians can still take part in City Cycling 2025 until 5 June, either in the main HU team or in one of the sub-teams for subjects, institutions, departments or status groups. Current interim status: 42 teams, 729 active cyclists, 75,630 kilometres - the HU is currently in 4th place in Berlin!

[Find out more about city cycling and register](#)

Workshops: Shaping diversity together

Diversity is part of HU's DNA - but how is it experienced and organised in everyday working and studying life? The Centre for Equal Opportunities (ZCG) is organising four online workshops on 20 and 23 June in which HU members can contribute their personal experiences and perspectives on the topics of discrimination and diversity. All suggestions will be analysed anonymously afterwards and incorporated into the development of the HU's diversity strategy.

- 1: Employees in technology, service & administration: 20 June, 9:00 to 10:30
- 2: Professors: 20 June, 11:00 to 12:30
- 3: Students: 23 June, 12:00 to 13:30
- 4: Academic staff: 23 June, 14:00 to 15:30

Register by specifying the workshop to: diversitaet@hu-berlin.de

[Find out more about workshops and register](#)

Committee elections on 17 June: View nominations and apply for postal voting

On 17 June, committee elections will take place at the HU, including the election of the committee for the election of the full-time women's and equal opportunities officers and their deputies as well as the by-election to the Council for the status groups of university lecturers and employees in technology, service and administration. The election proposals have been finalised and can be viewed. Postal voting documents can be requested until 3 June, 15:00, from the relevant local election committee in writing or by email via the personal email account provided by the university.

[View election proposals](#)

AI tool: Transcription of video and audio files

The HU Computer and Media Service provides an automatic transcription of video and audio files for all members of the university. After logging in, files up to a maximum size of four gigabytes can be uploaded. The transcriptions are then sent as a document by e-mail. All files and information are processed exclusively on HU servers and deleted immediately after processing. Please note: This transcription service is based on the open source software 'OpenAI Whisper' and is not 100 per cent error-free.

[Access OpenAI Whisper and transcribe files](#)

Construction work: Topping-out ceremony at the Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences

The listed and historically valuable north and west wings of the Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences are currently being renovated at a cost of 30 million euros. Following completion of the shell construction work in the first construction phase of the north wing, the topping-out ceremony will take place on 10 June at Ziegelstraße 5. The Senator for Science, Health and Care, Ina Czyborra, is expected to attend.

Photo gallery: Renovation in the east wing of the main building

The Audimax and the cinema hall are already accessible and seated, only the media technology still has to be installed. The construction work in the east wing of the main building is still ongoing and there are sheets and stepladders over the chairs, blocking the way in the stairwell! But for all those who are eagerly awaiting the reopening of the East Wing, the Technical Department provided a first glimpse behind the still closed doors. We will inform you about the official opening date of the East Wing in good time.

[View picture gallery](#)

Berlin University Alliance

Postdoc programme: Learning from managers

The BUA Postdoc Academy's Shadowing Programme gives early career researchers with a doctorate the opportunity to experience first-hand how managers at science-related organisations and institutions work. As part of a five-day shadowing programme, participants gain practical insights into tasks and fields of activity. The programme is aimed at all postdocs who belong to one of the four BUA institutions. An online information meeting will take place on 4 June from 13:30 to 14:00.

[Find out more about the programme](#)

Career Fair: Postdoc Career Fair on 26 June

Postdocs looking for non-university career prospects can find out about career paths and make contacts for their future career at the Postdoc Career Fair on 26 June. In addition to keynote sessions and panels, the 'Career Marketplace' offers the opportunity to talk to representatives from various companies and organisations. Early registration is recommended.

[Learn more about Career Marketplace and register](#)

Personalia

Emmy Noether Programme: HU junior scientist takes over leadership of the OrgXeMet research group

Dr Alberto Pérez-Bitrián is head of the new OrgXeMet research group at the HU's Institute of Chemistry. It is being funded with around 1.75 million euros over six years as part of the Emmy Noether Programme of the German Research Foundation. In the project, the researchers are focussing on the properties and reactivity of xenon compounds.

[Read news about OrgXeMet](#)

Congratulations: 100th birthday of Prof Dr Knud Caesar

The plant cultivation scientist Knud Caesar turned 100 on 24 May. From 1967 to 1988, he was Professor of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture at TU Berlin. In the course of reunification, he campaigned for the merger of the agricultural sciences at TU and HU. When the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture was founded at the HU, Knud Caesar was instrumental in setting up the Association of Friends and Sponsors and was its chairman for many years. The HU and in particular the Albrecht Daniel Thaer Institute would like to thank him for his many years of loyalty and support and wish him continued good health and well-being.

New official bulletins

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