

# News from the German Rhodes community



Newsletter of the Association of German Rhodes Scholars, March 2013

# Foreword

*Dear fellow Rhodes Scholars,*

*As president of the Association of German Rhodes Scholars I was deeply touched by the recent death of Hannes Unberath, the late German National Secretary to the Rhodes Trust. His life achievements and his contribution to the Rhodes Scholarship cannot be emphasized enough. In memory of Hannes, I first and foremost invite you to read the obituary on his behalf (see section 1), written by his close friend and former Rhodes Scholar Nils Ole Oermann. While the present Newsletter may contain many other points that are of interest for the future of our community (see sections 2-6), our thoughts remain in mourning with the family of Hannes Unberath.*

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans-Paul Bürkner'.

**Hans-Paul Bürkner**

Chairman of The Boston Consulting Group  
Germany & St Catherine's 1976

# Hannes Unberath – Ein Nachruf

Von Nils Ole Oermann  
Germany & Christ Church 1996



**Hannes Unberath**  
Germany & Worcester 1997

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*„Niemand kennt Tag  
und Stunde“.*

Dies Wort aus dem Matthäusevangelium war der Predigttext bei der Trauerfeier von Prof. Dr. jur. Hannes Unberath. Gewählt habe ich es, weil hier ein junger Mensch weit vor seiner Zeit abberufen wurde. Hannes war einer meiner engsten Freunde, den ich während unserer gemeinsamen Zeit an der Universität Oxford kennen- und schätzen gelernt habe. Sein Freiheitsdrang und seine intellektuelle Schärfe gepaart mit einer angenehmen Bodenständigkeit - das fiel mir gleich zu Anfang an ihm auf. Keine 15 Jahre später musste ich, der Pastor, seinen Freund, den Rechtslehrer, zu Grabe tragen. Er starb am 28. Januar 2013 nach langer Krankheit.

Die Rechtswissenschaft verliert mit seinem Tod eine Persönlichkeit, die in ihrem Fach einen Grad an Professionalität und Exzellenz erreicht hat, zu dem es nur wenige bringen. Hannes Unberath hatte nicht nur im Bereich der europäischen Rechtsvergleichung seine Spuren hinterlassen, sondern eine Habilitation aus dem Bereich des Bürgerlichen Rechts und der Rechtsphilosophie verfasst und exzellent publiziert, die ihresgleichen sucht.

**Kindheit &  
weiterer Werdegang.**

1973 in Kronstadt/Siebenbürgen als Teil der deutschen Minderheit in Rumänien geboren, verließ er mit seinen Eltern kurz vor der Wende 1989 das Land, um nach seinem Abitur in Erlangen Rechtswissenschaften zu studieren.



Portraits von Hannes Unberath.

Hannes besondere Leistung und Begabung ermöglichte es ihm, mit dem Rhodes Stipendium seinen juristischen Doktorgrad an der Universität Oxford zu erwerben. Später konnte er als akademischer Lehrer und Richter am Oberlandesgericht vieles von dem zurückgeben, was ihm dieses Stipendium ermöglichte. Nach seiner Promotion habilitierte er sich an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München bei Prof. Stephan Lorenz, um dann zunächst als ordentlicher Professor für Zivilrecht und Rechtsvergleichung an die Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena und 2009 nach Bayreuth berufen zu werden, wo er sich bundesweit einen Namen im Bereich Mediation und Streitschlichtung machte.

## Unermüdliches Engagement für das Rhodes Stipendium.

Ein besonderes Ehrenamt im besten Sinne war für Hannes sein Engagement für die deutschen Rhodes Stipendien: Wer ihn seit 2002 im Auswahlausschuss erleben durfte, der erinnert sich an einen so ernsthaften wie im Umgang mit den Kandidatinnen und



Hannes Unberath besucht Rhodes House (re. außen).

Kandidaten feinfühligem Fragesteller, dem daran lag, sich ein Bild von seinem Gegenüber zu machen, das weit über einen Lebenslauf hinausgeht. Hannes Unberath wollte verstehen, was einen jungen Studierenden antrieb, was ihn motivierte, wie er argumentierte.

Nach dem Ende der 32-jährigen Amtszeit von Thomas Böcking wurde Hannes dann vom Rhodes Trust gebeten, das Amt des Deutschen Sekretärs zu übernehmen. Ob bei der Neubesetzung von Kommissionsmitgliedern oder der Arbeit an der Außendarstellung des Stipendiums: Hannes lag daran, das im Rhodes Stipendium steckende Potential unter möglichst vielen Studierenden bekannt zu machen, um ihnen damit eine Chance zu eröffnen, die er selbst so umfassend und im Interesse des Gemeinwohls zu nutzen vermochte.

„Niemand kennt Tag und Stunde“ - all jene großartigen beruflichen Erfolge ändern nichts an dem Verlust, den seine Familie durch seinen Tod erfahren hat. Hannes Unberath hinterlässt drei kleine Kinder, bei denen unsere Gedanken sind.

**Please refer to the following link for an English version of the obituary:**

<http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/news/rhodes-community-mourns-professor-dr-hannes-unberath>

# Recent & future activities of the German Rhodes community

By Julie Kratz  
Germany & Linacre 2010

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Regional gatherings keep our community vibrant and alive.

On January 26, 2012, Claus Rüttsch (Germany & University 1974) hosted a gathering for German Rhodes Scholars in Basel, Switzerland. The get-together started with an afternoon of stimulating discussions on the activities of the Association of German Rhodes Scholars and the financial crisis. The highlight of the gathering was a dinner with Swiss specialties in St. Alban. The Basel reunion seems to have initiated a trend of regional get-togethers (see announcement of regional gatherings for 2013) that keeps the German Rhodes community vibrant and alive.

Announcement of regional gatherings for 2013.

### **Berlin: Friday, March 15, 2013**

Jürgen Reitmaier (Germany & Magdalen 1972) and his wife Angela invite Rhodes Scholars residing in the Berlin area to a dinner in their home. Please indicate your interest to [Reitmaier@gmail.com](mailto:Reitmaier@gmail.com). Should acceptances exceed capacity, they will host a further dinner soon thereafter.

### **Munich: Friday-Sunday, March 22-24, 2013**

13 current Rhodes Scholars from various constituencies will be in Munich on a study tour organized by Felix Binder (Germany & St Edmund Hall 2012) and Alma Brodersen (Germany & St John's 2012). They would be delighted to meet Rhodes Scholars in the Munich area. If you are interested please contact [alma.brodersen@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alma.brodersen@sjc.ox.ac.uk).

### **Rhein-Main area: Saturday, April 20, 2013**

Daivd Klemm (Germany & Hertford 1995) organizes a regional dinner near Frankfurt. If you would like to participate please contact [klemm@email.com](mailto:klemm@email.com). The dinner will either take place in David's home (Bad Soden) or in a nearby restaurant, depending on the number of participants.

### **Heidelberg/Darmstadt: Mid June, 2013**

Claus Rüttsch (Germany & University 1974) invites Rhodes Scholars to a regional gathering in his home in Laudenbach. If you would like to participate please contact [c.ruetsch@yahoo.de](mailto:c.ruetsch@yahoo.de). Possible dates are the 14<sup>th</sup> of 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, depending on participants' availability.



Impressions of the Berlin dinner 2012.



Annual membership meeting 2012.

## Berlin dinner as the 2012 highlight for the German Rhodes community.

On November 23, 2012, more than 20 Scholars gathered for the official annual dinner of the Association of German Rhodes Scholars in Berlin's Literatensalon Theodor Tucher near the Brandenburger Gate.

The evening started with a round table interview to compare the Rhodes experience of two scholars from very different generations: Julie Kratz (Germany & Linacre 2010) and Lippold von Klencke (Germany & St John's 1970). The interview was moderated by Christian Thorun (Germany & St Antony's 2001). Furthermore Ela Nägele and Verena Schenzinger, the two newly elected German Scholars, were introduced by Jürgen Reitmaier (Germany & Magdalen 1972).

It was an unforgettable evening full of interesting discussions and memories of the Oxford experience that finished long after midnight.

## Shaping the future at our annual membership meeting.

12 Scholars met for the annual membership meeting of the Association of German Rhodes Scholars on November 24, 2012, in Berlin. After a greeting from our president Hans-Paul Bürkner (Germany & St Catherine's 1976), the following points were discussed—amongst others—to shape the future of our community:

- The preparations for a potential German Rhodes Lecture in 2013.
- The progress that has been made to change our association charter to acquire the status of "Gemeinnützigkeit".
- The establishment of an online compendium of all German Scholars to foster the exchange in our community.
- The start of our fundraising campaign to secure the two German Rhodes Scholarships (see section 2).

To receive a protocol of the membership meeting please contact:

[anne.roermahler@gmail.com](mailto:anne.roermahler@gmail.com)

# Our fundraising campaign to secure the German Scholarships – Your support is needed!

By Christian Thorun  
Germany & St Antony's 2001

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Rhodes Trust forced to live beyond its means. Time for us to give back!

The Oxford experience and the Rhodes Scholarship left an imprint on the lives of many of us. We benefited from the generous support of the Trust. Due to the difficult financial climate of the past several years, annual yields on the endowment have fallen significantly and are expected to remain subdued for some time still. At the same time, the costs of studying at Oxford have risen significantly. As a result, the Trust is forced to live beyond its means which results in a diminished endowment. This might lead to a reduction in the number of Scholarships in the coming years. This is the time for us to give back.



THE RHODES TRUST

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS  
*Leaders for the world's future*

2013

Herausragende  
Persönlichkeiten fördern –  
ein Studium in Oxford  
ermöglichen

Fundraising-Initiative der Vereinigung der  
Deutschen Rhodes Scholars e.V.

**Title page of campaign leaflet for potential donors.**

To prevent a reduction in the number of Scholarships, the Trust has embarked on an ambitious fundraising programme. Rhodes Scholars from around the world have already donated to this campaign. German Rhodes Scholars have contributed more than 100,000 Euro. This is a commendable start, but we need to do more as German Rhodes Scholars.

We kindly ask each German Scholar for an individual donation.

At this time it is crucial for the German Rhodes Community to demonstrate its commitment to the Rhodes Scholarship. To do so, we kindly ask each German Scholar for an individual donation—No matter how large the amount. Donations can be made to the German Friends of Oxford University e.V. (*Deutsche Bank Düsseldorf, Sort code: 30070024, Account No: 23640400, BIC: DEUTDE33HAN, IBAN: DE75 3007 0024 0236 4040 00, Verwendungszweck: Spende zugunsten des Rhodes Trust, Name, Adresse*).

Our campaign to secure the two German Scholarships.

To create a sufficient endowment to sustainably finance two German Rhodes Scholarships 5 Mio GBP are needed. In January 2013 the Association of German Rhodes Scholars launched a fundraising campaign. The objective is to raise 5 Mio. GBP in the next three to five years. A team

has been set up. Information material has been developed, a list with potential donors compiled, and first potential donors have been approached. To raise 5 Mio. GBP is an ambitious target, but possible. In November 2012 Rhodes Scholars from New Zealand announced that they had secured a gift of 7.5 Mio GBP for New Zealand Scholars. Our objective is to achieve the same in Germany!

Our campaign needs your active support. There are many ways for you to help!

We now need to scale up the work of our fundraising campaign. To do this we need your support. There are many ways for you to help:

- Approach people who might be interested in making a donation.
- Identify people that we should approach as the German Association of Rhodes Scholars.
- Review the list that we have prepared and indicate whether you have any connections to these people.
- Join our fundraising team.

To get involved or to obtain more information, please contact:  
Claus Rüttsch via [c.ruetsch@yahoo.de](mailto:c.ruetsch@yahoo.de)

Your fundraising team,

Lippold von Klencke (*Germany & St John's 1970*), Jürgen Reitmaier (*Germany & Magdalen 1972*), Claus Rüttsch (*Germany & University 1974*) and Christian Thorun (*Germany & St Antony's 2001*)



# Interview with alumni Martin Ney

By Julie Kratz  
Germany & Linacre 2010



## Martin Ney

Legal Advisor of the German Foreign Office  
Germany & Merton 1981

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### Short biography

Martin Ney (\*1956) studied law at the Universities of Würzburg (Germany) and Geneva (Switzerland) before studying Politics and Economics as a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford from 1981 till 1983. After receiving a D.Phil. in International Law from the University of Würzburg and a distinguished career in the German Foreign Office (with postings in Thailand, the US, Japan and Bosnia), he served as Ambassador to the UN (Dep. Permanent Representative of Germany, 2007 – 2010). He is currently The Legal Advisor of the German Foreign Office.

### What is your most cherished memory from your time as a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford?

I should say that it was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rhodes Trust when my then fiancée and I were presented to the Queen and Prince Philipp at Rhodes House. However, I must at least add that I was thrilled by the rich musical life at Oxford University, especially when I was asked to play the Mozart flute concerto in D major as a soloist with the O.U.O. at Merton College Chapel. What an incredible setting!

### What was the greatest challenge for you during your time in Oxford?

Definitely the preparation for my very first tutorial. When my tutor gave me the reading list and the questions for my first essay, I—coming from the continent—asked him if that was the reading list for this semester. His answer came as a shock to me: He told me that, first, Oxford had trimesters, and secondly, that this was the reading for the following Tuesday. I quickly learned what stiff upper lip meant.

### **What were your plans after graduating from Oxford?**

Besides getting married—getting a D.Phil. in International Law and finding out in the process if I was built for academia or rather for a diplomatic career. I learned that academic research was fine, but that I wanted to be closer to political decision making processes.

### **Can you describe your current work for us in a few sentences?**

I am advising the Foreign Minister and the State Secretaries on legal matters, especially on matters of public international law and constitutional law. At the same time I have to manage the Legal Affairs Department, one of the six departments of the German Foreign Office counting more than 150 colleagues, who not only practice international law, but also give instructions to the embassies abroad on all legal, visa and consular matters. The range of issues is enormous: In September, for example, the German Constitutional Court had decided that the ESM treaty was only constitutional if the German government secured—in the context of Germany's ratification of the treaty—one specific interpretation of the treaty. We had two weeks of time to achieve that within the Euro Group.

### **How does being a Rhodes Scholar impact your current work?**

The intellectual training at Oxford was marvelous. It taught me to grasp a complex issue quickly, then take a decision and, most importantly, defend it. Today, this is my daily routine.

### **What does “fighting the world’s fight” mean for you in today’s world?**

International politics are full of lost opportunities (big and small), i.e. critical

moments when people in various functions—politicians, diplomats, economic leaders, advisers, academics—had the choice of either pushing for a creative solution and thereby making a difference, or of letting the moment pass. “Fighting the world’s fight” means to grasp those moments and accepting the responsibility to make a difference.

### **Which traits and qualities do you deem most important to fight this “fight”?**

A sense of responsibility, creativity, and courage—especially courage.

### **Given your expertise in international relations through your current work and your former position as a German ambassador to the UN, do you think it is important for a contemporary Rhodes Scholarship to open up to countries such as China or the UAE?**

China is enormously important as a growing market, as an economic competitor and world player—and as a reminder that, in a multipolar world, an individual European country has no decisive influence whatsoever, as a reminder that, if the EU does not get its act together, even Europe as a whole will lose influence rapidly. Does it mean that we need Chinese Rhodes scholars? Not necessarily. The same holds true for the changing Arab world: We need to think how to deal with the central question if and how Arab societies are capable to adapt to the modern world, and what that means to international relations.

### **Last but not least, what advice would you give recent graduates that want to embark on a career in public service?**

Just do it! It can be fascinating.

# Profile of alumni

## Peter Rolf Lutzeier

By Martin Poppe  
Germany & Magdalen 1978



**Peter Rolf Lutzeier**  
Vice-Chancellor & Principal of  
Newman University, Birmingham  
Germany & Merton 1974

### **Peter Rolf Lutzeier about the Rhodes Scholarship:**

“With hindsight, the Rhodes Scholarship provided at the time an amazing springboard for my future ambitions to become a respected academic in my own field and to work for the common good of Higher Education in several countries. At Oxford, I had the privilege to become a member of a lively community of fellows and students from all over the world, experienced high quality extra-curricular opportunities in culture and sport, and had the fortune to meet my future wife at the first weekend.”

Professor Lutzeier is Vice-Chancellor & Principal of Newman University in Birmingham, one of the newly created Catholic universities in England in 2013. He came to Newman in 2010 from the University of Hull, where he spent three years as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching). Rolf Peter Lutzeier has a considerable understanding of the issues facing Higher Education, having worked in three different Higher Education systems (Germany, USA, UK).

Born in Stuttgart (Germany), Rolf Peter Lutzeier graduated from the University of Stuttgart in Mathematics (Dipl.-Math) in 1972, was awarded a Dr. phil in Linguistics at Stuttgart in 1974, and then went on to study at Merton College, Oxford University as a German Rhodes Scholar. At Oxford, he earned a BLitt in Philosophy in 1976 (MLitt in 1984) before completing his Dr.phil.habil in Linguistics at the Free University of Berlin in 1980.

After spells as a lecturer at the Free University of Berlin, the universities of Cologne and Munich, Rolf Peter Lützeier went as a Heisenberg Fellow of the German Research Foundation (DFG) to the University of California, San Diego and University of California, Los Angeles. He also served as Professor of German Linguistics and as Head of Department in the Institute of German Philology at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. In 1995, he joined as Chair of German the University of Surrey in Guildford (UK) and later became the Executive Head of the School of Arts at the University of Surrey.

Professor Lützeier is widely published in Linguistics and has an international reputation in Lexicology; the theory and practice of the structure of the lexicon/vocabulary. In this capacity he has done consultancy projects on brand values

for BMW Munich. He currently works on the third volume of his three volume dictionary on German words with opposite senses, which is going to be the world's first dictionary of this kind in any major language.

Rolf Peter Lützeier is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), sits on the Board of the HEA, the Board of the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HECSU) and is a Vice-Chair of the Cathedrals Group, a group of Universities and Colleges with Church foundations. He served for several years on the Arts & Humanities Research Council's Peer Review College and, since 2008, he is by invitation of the Federal Government of Baden-Württemberg, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of German Language (IDS) in Mannheim (Germany).

# Profile of newly elected Scholar Ela Nägele

By Julie Kratz  
Germany & Linacre 2010



**Ela Nägele**  
Student at Yale University

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## Short biography

Ela Nägele (\*1989) grew up in Freiburg, studied at the conservatories of Bern and Stuttgart, and is about to complete her BA at Yale University where she is majoring in History and Philosophy. In her spare time Ela loves to play chamber music, host dinner parties, and participate in any sport that somehow involves a ball. In Oxford Ela will study Modern British and European History and continue her research on legal internationalism during the First World War. Ela applied to Magdalen College.

### What was your first reaction after receiving the Scholarship?

Great relief and deep gratitude.

### What does being a Rhodes Scholar mean to you?

It means being a member of a dynamic and cosmopolitan community of intellectual and committed scholars, seeking to contribute to the greater cause to which this community is devoted, and forming lifelong friendships.

### How are you planning to contribute to fighting the world's fight?

I hope to become a legal theorist and practitioner in the field of international law and to contribute to the building and strengthening of an international legal structure that best serves the goals of peacekeeping and human rights.

### What image do you connect with the University of Oxford?

Unclear—all of my images are either blurred by rain or clouded in fog.

### **Why did you choose to study Modern British and European History in Oxford?**

History is the foundation for the normative legal work that I eventually wish to pursue and Oxford's History Department is an excellent one. In Peter Ghosh, moreover, I found a supervisor who will be a great fit for my research interests in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century German intellectual and legal thought.

### **To get to know Ela the person a bit better, please tell us what is your idea of a perfect day?**

A day of hiking in the Alps with friends or family that begins at dawn, is filled with both engaging discussion and sublime silence, is interrupted by a few hours of reading and writing once the summit is reached, and ends at nightfall in cooking a delicious dinner and playing chamber music together.

### **What is one of your most favorite books and why?**

Tolstoy's War and Peace. The transformation from a Weltanschauung centered around intellect to one centered around instinct that Tolstoy attributes to "Pierre," who in turn symbolizes Russia, managed to transform my own sensitivity and appreciation of the world's and humanity's beauty.

### **Last but not least, what is the best advice you ever received and who gave it to you?**

The mouse said "The world is getting smaller with every day. At first it was so large that I was afraid; I ran further and was pleased that far away I could finally see walls to the right and to the left. But these long walls seem to meet so fast that I am already in the last room where the corner keeps the trap I am running into".—"You only need to change your direction" said the cat an ate the mouse. (Franz Kafka)

## Profile of newly elected Scholar Verena Schenzinger

By Martin Poppe  
Germany & Magdalen 1978

**We are delighted to see you elected as Rhodes scholar starting in Oxford in 2013. Would you be kind enough to briefly introduce yourself?**

I am 24 and was born in a small town in Bavaria. I started my studies in Munich in 2007, taking a B.Sc. course in molecular



**Verena Schenzinger**  
Student at Ludwig-Maximilians-University

biotechnology, but changed to a Physics course (also B.Sc.) one year later. I completed the course in 2011, continuing with a M.Sc. course in Physics. Additionally, I am studying for a teaching degree in Physics and Mathematics for German secondary schools. In the year 2011/12 I was at the University of Oxford as a visiting student, a year that I enjoyed greatly and that caused me to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship.

**So, this fits nicely into your plans. What exactly do you want to read in Oxford?**

In Oxford, I would like to study for a D.Phil. in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics. My focus will be on Climate Physics and related topics, but I also have a lively interest in Particle — and Biophysics. I applied to Merton College.

**That is good news. But we all know that Oxford students tend to take opportunities beyond the subjects they read.**

Apart from Physics, there are a lot of activities that I enjoy:

I play the double bass (during my time in Oxford I played in Merton College Orchestra and the Oxford Millennium Orchestra) and the piano (started 2 years ago) and love to

visit classical concerts and the opera in Munich, as well as the theatres.

Regarding sports, I enjoy running a lot — after a severe injury I am starting to train for my first marathon in July. While in Oxford, I of course tried out rowing — I competed for Merton in Christchurch Regatta, Torpids and Summer Eights and went sculling in the evenings to relax. In Munich I continued rowing on the old Olympic Regatta course, but I prefer rowing on a river. Since I started studying in Munich I took classes in Ballroom and Latin dances, continuing in Oxford and expanding my repertoire by Salsa, West Coast Swing and Argentine Tango. The latter is an absolutely adorable dance, it's an art of moving and communicating without words.

Recently I started to practice diving at the university's sports club in Munich, a sport I loved to watch at the Olympics and now had the opportunity to learn.

Furthermore, I enjoy reading and discussing literature (classics and modern authors), travelling and photography. As I am eager to read books in their original language and to be able to at least understand people in other countries, I am currently trying to teach myself French (one reason might be my passion for French cheese).

To get in touch  
simply contact our  
vice-president



**Anne Roemer-Mahler**

Vice-president, Association  
of German Rhodes Scholars  
Germany & St Antony's 2003

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As a Rhodes  
Scholar living in  
Germany

As a German  
Rhodes Scholar  
living abroad

As a current  
German Scholar  
still in Oxford

Join us for one of the many delightful get-togethers  
that take place all year round in Germany!

Get actively involved in supporting our goal to  
keep our community vibrant and alive!

Simply contact: [anne.roemermahler@gmail.com](mailto:anne.roemermahler@gmail.com)

The Association of German Rhodes Scholars