



Dickinson College and the University of Bremen have been successful partners for 30 years. More than 350 students and many, many colleagues participated in the exchange program and made valuable experiences as well as friends on the opposite side of the Atlantic.



We celebrate this anniversary in June 2015!

A Short History of the Program

1982: Dickinson's Decision

A Dickinson commission starts investigating about possible partner institutions in Germany. After several meetings and discussions, a proposal is drafted in the spring of 1983 which favors the University of Bremen over other choices.

Summer 1983: Official Visit in Bremen

Dickinson President Samuel Alston Banks sends Prof. Beverley Eddy to Bremen to speak to professors and administration staff in order to see if the university was interested in a partnership.

January 1983: Follow-up Visit in Bremen

Prof. Wolfgang Müller travels to Bremen and makes further contacts and arrangements for the summer.

Summer 1984: First Summer Program

Prof. Wolfgang Müller, accompanied by Prof. Rollfinke, brings the first Dickinson students to Bremen. The students take language classes with Mrs. Ursula Ziebarth (made possible by the Senator for Education) and hear lectures about the history of Bremen from Prof. Immanuel Geiss and about German literature from Prof. Wolfgang Emmerich. The Bremen Senate holds a reception for the American guests on June 20. Later summer programs will be directed by: Wolfgang Müller, Beverley Eddy, Gisela Roethke, Brigitte Jirku, Laurel Cohen-Pfister, Sylvia Klötzer, and Hans Pfister. For a while, Dickinson students live in families of Bremen citizens and university professors, making the program well-known in the city.

Fall 1984 – Summer 85: First Full-Year Student Exchange

The first three Dickinson students come to Bremen to attend the university for a full year in the so-called "Junior-Year-Aboard-Program." Matthias Ziegfeld and Ruth Noack study at Dickinson as the first exchange students from Bremen. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Emmerich, a renowned Germanist, directs the program in Bremen; so does Horst Herrlich, Prof. of Mathematics, in the following year. Prof. Cornelius Noack also advises students, and Erika Harjes-Badawi from the International Office coordinates.



Matthias Ziegfeld: A real German



Fall 1984: Reception at the City Hall

The Mayor of Bremen, Hans Koschnick, hosts a reception at the City Hall attended by Rector Jürgen Timm and Prof. Beverley Eddy.



Reception held by the Mayor at the City Hall in 1984 (from left to right): Mayor Koschnick, Prof. Eddy, Rector Timm

November 14, 1984: Innovative Live Broadcast at Dickinson of Bremerhaven Lecture



Dickinson and Bremen University broadcast the first live lecture (on the topic of German emigration to the US) across the Atlantic from Bremerhaven to Carlisle in a co-operation with Radio Bremen, the German Maritime Museum Bremerhaven, and the National Committee for Internationalizing Education through Satellites (NCIES). This live international class is broadcast on WITF-TV Harrisburg and transmitted by satellite throughout the United States. Organized by Bev Eddy and Dr. Klaus Sondergeld, press spokesman of the University of Bremen.

First live lecture broadcast to the US from the German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven

Spring 1985: First visit of an Uni Bremen Official at Dickinson

Erika Harjes-Badawi, head of the International Office at the University of Bremen, visits Dickinson and drafts the first cooperation agreement. She will be most vital for the cooperation, mentoring the program for many years, with the assistance of Ute Wedemeier.

May 29, 1985: Signing of the First Cooperation Agreement

Dickinson President Samuel Banks comes to Bremen to sign the first cooperation agreement together with Rector Jürgen Timm. The Bremen Senate hosts a reception for the occasion.



Rector Timm and President Banks signing of the Initial Agreement in 1985

Summer 1985: First Summer Immersion Program for Dickinson Faculty

Prof. Dieter Rollfinke takes a group of Dickinson professors to Bremen for an immersion program: Daniel Bechtel, Paul Biebel, Carol Derrickson, Cyril Dwiggin, Philip Grier, Marvin Israel, Annette LeClair, David Robertson, Susan Rose, Gregory Smith. The program is mentored by Vice Rector Hermann Cordes.

1985-86: First Fulbright Professor in Carlisle

Prof. Immanuel Geiss spends a year in Carlisle as the first Fulbright professor at Dickinson, teaching at the History Department.

Summer 1986: New Director of the Dickinson-in-Germany Program

Prof. Rainer Stollmann from the Dpt. of Cultural Studies at Uni Bremen is appointed Dickinson-in-Bremen Director and will hold this position for more than 20 years.

Fall 1986: Dickinson Welcomes Sport Teams of Bremen University

Under the organization of Matthias Ziegfeld, the soccer and volleyball teams of the University of Bremen travel to Dickinson to play against teams from five colleges.



January 20, 1987: Conferring of First Honorary Degree

Dickinson College awards an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to Rector Timm in Carlisle.

March 1988: Chancellor Visit at Dickinson

Uni Bremen Chancellor Hermann Cordes visits Carlisle in order to discuss ways to deepen the cooperation and prepare a revised agreement.

Summer 1988: High School Teachers in Bremen

Prof. Dieter Rollfinke travels to Bremen with a group of High School teachers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The program is coordinated by Rainer Stollmann.

September 26, 1988: Signing of a New Agreement

President A. Lee Fritschler visits Bremen and signs a new partnership agreement with Rector Timm.

November 9, 1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall

The Dickinson students studying in Bremen experience a truly historical German moment: the fall of the Berlin Wall. Incidentally and clairvoyantly, at the same time the German Club at Dickinson hosts a party called "Fall of the Wall" party, wearing t-shirts with that theme. They had planned to knock down a fake wall at this party. Instead they watched TV as the actual events started.

Summer 1990: Second Summer Immersion Program for Dickinson Faculty

Again directed by Prof. Dieter Rollfinke, the program brings the following Dickinson professors to Bremen: Daniel Bechtel, Beth Bullard, Ella Forsyth, Philip Grier, Helen Harrison, Sinan Koont, S. Ned Rosenbaum, William Schearer, George Rhyne.

Spring 1992: Re-signing of the Agreement

Rector Timm signs a renewed agreement with A. President Lee Fritschler at Dickinson College.

December 1994: Opening of the Teerhof Guest House

The Teerhof guest house in the city center of Bremen, built with a major contribution from Dickinson College, opens its doors. It replaces the former guest house Dickinson had kept in the Bartensteiner Straße which had been led by former exchange student Peter Kaune.

March/April 1995: 10th Anniversary of the Partnership



Both at Dickinson College and Bremen University, the 10th anniversary of the successful exchange program is being celebrated. A reception at the Teerhof is hosted by Prof. Beverly Eddy.

Reception at Teerhof: Vice Rector Hermann Cordes (center) with two alumni of the Bremen exchange to Dickinson

June 30, 1995: Innovative international video class on ecotourism

30 high school and Dickinson students from Prof. Candie Wilderman's environmental science class receive a live video lecture on ecotourism by Prof. Ingo Mose, then geography lecturer at Uni Bremen.

May 18, 1996: Honorary degree for Klaus Wedemeier

The President of the Senate and Mayor of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Klaus Wedemeier, is being awarded an honorary degree by Dickinson College.

Summer 1996: Third Summer Immersion Program for Dickinson Faculty

Again directed by Prof. Dieter Rollfinke, the program brings the following Dickinson professors to Bremen: Barbara Diduk, Helen Harrison, Sinan Koont, Karen Lordi, Stephen MacDonald, George Rhyne, S. Ned Rosenbaum, Barbara Brunner.

May 30, 2000: Signing of New Cooperation Agreement

President William G. Durden and Rector Jürgen Timm sign a renewed cooperation agreement in Bremen.

2003/04: Bremen Writer Michael Augustin Homorary Fellow at Dickinson

Michael Augustin, a poet from Bremen – he and his wife Sujata Bhatt are and long-term friends of the program – is writer-in-residence and guest professor at Dickinson College.

2005: 20th Anniversary of the Partnership



Several guests celebrate the 20th anniversary of the partnership in Bremen, including Mayor Klaus Wedemeier.

Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the exchange (front, from left to right: Prof. Sabine Broeck (Vice Rector for International Affairs), Ute Wedemeier and husband Mayor Klaus Wedemeier, Prof. Beverly Eddy, Erika Harjes-Badawi; back: former students Peter Kaune and Axel Vette)

2008/2009: New Dickinson-in-Bremen Director

Sadly, Prof. Rainer Stollmann is giving up his position for Dickinson after two decades. Dr. Carl Wege becomes the new director for the academic year 2008/2009.

2009: New Dickinson-in-Bremen Director

After Carl Wege leaves to pursue a DGF project, Dr. Janine Ludwig is appointed the new Academic Director of the program and holds this position still today.

July 5, 2010: Honorary degree for Günter Kunert

Upon the 25-year-anniversary of the program, Dickinson confers an honorary degree to German poet Günter Kunert in Bremen. President Bill Durden attends the ceremony.

July 14, 2010: Signing of Renewed Agreement

President William G. Durden and Rector Wilfried Müller sign a renewed cooperation agreement in Bremen.

July 14, 2010: First Masters Agreements

The Dickinson-in-Bremen Program negotiates Masters Agreements with several Masters Courses at Uni Bremen – they grant Dickinson graduates preferred acceptance. The first ones are: Master of Science in Business Studies, Master of Arts in Professional Public Decision Making, Ecology, Media Culture, and Transcultural Studies. Master of Arts “Germanistik,” Master of Arts “Linguistik” / “Language Science,” and Master of Arts “Transnationale Literaturwissenschaft” / “Transnational Literary Studies” follow.

June 5, 2012: First Dickinson Lecture

Neil van Sichen, President of the CSDAC, and Academic Director Ludwig organize the first Dickinson College Public Lecture in the center of Bremen for a wide audience. Introduced by Rector Müller and Prof. Lothar Probst, Prof. Douglas T. Stuart speaks on: “America’s Asian Pivot: Implications for Asia and for Europe.”

Douglas T. Stuart and Lothar Probst with audience



May 30, 2013: Second Dickinson Lecture

Introduced by Prof. Wolfram Elsner from Uni Bremen’s Economics Dpt., Prof. Edward McPhail holds a lecture titled: “The Welfare State as a ‘Road to Serfdom’? F. A. Hayek and the American Debate About Social Politics.”

Summer 2013: First Dickinson Summer Program on Sustainability

Jointly led by Dickinson professor Michael Heiman and Uni Bremen professor Hartmut Koehler and organized by the Dickinson-in-Bremen staff, a 4-week summer program takes place in Bremen and other places. About a dozen students from Dickinson College and other Schools come to Uni Bremen to learn about all aspects of sustainability.

2014: Renaming

To honor his long-time support, the program is named after Dickinson’s retiring president: the Durden Bremen Center.

June 3 and 4, 2015: 30th Anniversary

With several events – including the third Dickinson College Public Lecture, held by Joyce A. Bylander on “Delivering on the Promise of Diversity in Higher Education” – Dickinson College and the University of Bremen celebrate the 30th anniversary of their exchange program in Bremen.

Regular events held in Bremen for the students of the program over the last years:

Excursions to Vienna, Berlin, Poland (since 2012), and many other places

Thanksgiving dinner and 4th-of-July barbecue, hosted by the Carl Schurz German American Club (CSDAC) whose members generously fund our students’ attendance.



Thanksgiving 2014: Dickinson-in-Bremen students of 2014/15 with Bremen students and Dr. Ludwig (2nd from left)

This cooperation would never have grown and flourished the way it did, had it not been for many, many colleagues from all parts of both institutions, be it faculty, staff, professors, administrators, presidents and rectors, student assistants and alumni who have kept it alive and kicking. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was ever involved in this great endeavor over the years for their work and continuous support. While it is impossible to give everyone due mentioning, we would like to name the following persons:

Former Presidents of Dickinson College

Samuel A. Banks

A. Lee Fritschler

William G. Durden (and his wife Elke)

Former Rectors of the University of Bremen

Jürgen Timm

Vice Rector Hermann Cordes

Wilfried Müller

Former Bremen Mayors

Hans Koschnick

Klaus Wedemeier

Jens Böhrnsen

German Professors and On-campus Coordinators at Dickinson:

Beverley Eddy

Wolfgang Müller

Dieter Rollfinke

Gisela Roethke

Sarah McGaughey (current)

Antje Pfannkuchen (current)

Kamaal Haque (current)

Academic Directors in Bremen:

Wolfgang Emmerich (1984-1985)

Horst Herrlich (1985-1986)

Rainer Stollmann (1986-2008)

Carl Wege (2008-2009)

Janine Ludwig (2009-present)

Program Coordinators:

Oliver Schmidt

Jens Schröder

Verena Mertz

Professors and faculty from both schools who visited and taught at the partner institution:

Dieter Herms, Wolfgang Emmerich, Carl Wege, Wolfgang Eichwede, Cornelius Noack, Helga Krüger, Inge Marbolek, Sabine Broeck, Rainer Stollmann, Peter Seibt, Christine Villardo, Jürgen Timm, Christian Marzahn, Sylvia Klötzer, Hans Pfister, Janine Ludwig, Ansgar Weymann, a.m.m.

Honorary degrees conferred by Dickinson to Bremen Professors and Mayors

Jürgen Timm, Klaus Wedemeier, Wilfried Müller