



JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

*Celebratory address of the President of JGU,
University Professor Dr. Georg Krausch,
on the occasion of the Founder's Day 2010
of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
on November 29, 2010 at 5:00 pm*

WEGE IN DIE ZUKUNFT:

Stiftertag der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz



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Dear Dr. Adam,
Mr. Scholz,
honored sponsors,
ladies and gentlemen!

The fact that we have all come together today is already very positive for our University and gives me great pleasure, because it shows how many citizens feel connected to Mainz University and are even prepared to support its many activities with their private means. Others may be here because they want to get more information about Johannes Gutenberg University and the opportunities available to sponsors. I welcome you all, jointly with the members of the University, whom I also thank for their attendance. In the name of all University members, I welcome the deans as representatives of our faculties and the representatives of the AStA (General Students' Committee) as student representatives.

Last year, we moved from the Old Mensa building to this place as a result of the "education strike". This autumn, this was no longer necessary, but as we all liked it here, we have decided to meet again here this year. I would like to extend my special thanks to our School of Music that is providing its concert hall for our event this year as well. Let us continue with the "education strike." The universities in Rhineland-Palatinate, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth, and Culture, have responded to the criticism of the students and decided at the beginning of 2010 to revise all bachelor study courses once more in a process that involves the students. Appropriate committee meetings were held for each subject, and we organized numerous statistical surveys by our Center of Quality Assurance and Development, for example comprehensive surveys on the workload of students. All participants within the University did a considerable amount of work and provided a fairly good impression of the real nature of the problems in early autumn. This process showed, for example, that the average workload for students is completely acceptable, and that this is also seen this way. However, at certain times, typically at the end of the semester, peak loads occur due to the high number of examinations. It is often easy to remedy that problem by spreading the examinations over a longer period, replacing some written tests with seminar papers, and combining some scattered examinations into fewer, but more comprehensive tests. Much of this has already been put into practice. It also became apparent that many of our bachelor study courses proceeded very successfully and



are very much appreciated by our students. Our University Council could convince itself of this, when a representative of the board of the General Students' Committee introduced himself to the University Council. When asked the surprising question what he particularly liked at Johannes Gutenberg University, he replied: "The way the Bologna Process has been implemented." After all the complaints concerning the new study system, many participants could not believe their ears. I pass this praise on to all lecturers present – we tend to complain, but we may also feel a bit of pride for what we are achieving in the field of teaching at our University every year – in particular, when the relatively meager basic financing is considered.

The various institutions that deal with quality assurance and quality development have become an integral part of this process. This not only concerns the Center of Quality Assurance and Development but also the Internal Audit and Organizational Development staff unit of the Chancellor's Office, and last but not least the 33 study offices that were newly established in recent years and that deal with teaching in a decentralized manner. Many of you might not yet know that the transformation to Bachelor's and Master's study courses also implied new quality management specifications for the universities. Thus, in Rhineland-Palatinate, all study courses must be accredited by an external agency before studying can be commenced. This typically costs €15,000 to 20,000 per degree program and adds up to a considerable sum for our approximately 150 study courses, which has to be procured every five years. In addition to the direct costs, the accreditation also involves considerable time input by the lecturers and staff members of the administration, as extensive self-reporting is required. These self-reports are then used as a basis for an on-site evaluation by an auditor. A new option has been developed in the meantime, which does not require assessment and approval of each study course but of the quality management system of the whole University. This brings about the right to have study courses accredited by organizational units within the University. I see this as an important step towards an autonomous university, and I am therefore grateful that the necessary steps in this direction were already initiated by my predecessor from this office. A long process has been started and has led to two on-site inspections in this calendar year. With some luck, we will become the first German university that receives system accreditation in spring of next year. I would like to add that our University has already been honored several times for its quality management concept and its implementation. Currently, the entire German university scene is looking to Mainz, curiously watching whether we will clear the hurdle.



On this day, we are celebrating the Founder's Day, and therefore have many representatives from the world outside the university here with us. I would therefore like to add that we had, as one of many measures last year, an intense exchange of experiences regarding quality management between our University and approximately ten private enterprises that also involved the German Society for Quality. It was very interesting to learn how the very different institutions handle quality issues, and which experience was gained in different contexts.

We cannot talk about the quality of teaching without looking at the development of the number of students. In the years to come, the conversion to an eight-year secondary school course will lead to a large number of additional students when the last classes of nine-year course graduates do their A-levels at the same time as the first eight-year classes. Some large federal states, in particular Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, have introduced this change in a specific year for the whole state, so that we will be flooded by a wave of additional individuals who are entitled to study. As part of the University Pact of 2020, the Federal Government and the state governments have agreed to create an additional 275,000 new study places nationwide during the years 2011 to 2015 to provide young people with an adequate academic education. Furthermore, the predictions of the Education Ministers' Conference state that the number of new students will drop by approximately 63,000 in the new federal states during the same period. This will lead to an additional requirement of nearly 340,000 new study places in the old federal states. More than 20,000 new study places are being created in Rhineland-Palatinate, and roughly 3,200 of these are at our University, which will, for the first time in its history, reach a total of 35,000 students in autumn of this year.

I do not need to point out what additional challenges all participants will have to face. We will not only need more staff members for teaching and administration, we will also need more rooms, workstations for students, residential space and appropriate catering facilities. Against this background, the decision to abandon the compulsory military service in Germany at the same time does not seem well thought out. It means that the last persons who do compulsory military service will come to the universities at the same time as the first high-school graduates after the abolition of compulsory military service. It is estimated that this will lead to an additional demand for approximately 60,000 new study places that have to be provided as well. There is currently no indication as to how these additional study places



are to be financed. We can only hope that the final decision concerning the end of the military service will take these important consequences for the educational institutions into account.

There are many other stories to tell about the daily operational challenges of such a large university – but I do not want to complain, because there are a great many developments that are very positive and encouraging. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to take part in the first fundraising ball of the Mainz Heart Foundation in the Electoral Palace. Approximately €100,000 were collected in one evening – which will all be used for the benefit of the Foundation. The Mainz Heart Foundation is known for its innovative ideas – this summer, I had the opportunity to open the summer celebrations together with Professor Thomas Münzel, the spiritus rector of the Foundation, with a "goal-shooting" competition. My personal score of goals was limited, but the event was a good test run for future events of this kind.

Last year, I told you about the magnificent sponsorship of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, which has promised no less than €100 million to establish an Excellence Center for Life Sciences. This project is progressing well – we have managed to enlist a highly renowned, award-winning scientist as the founding director, who has started to put together his team jointly with Chancellor Scholz, who is acting as commercial director. The building, which was promised by the state government, has nearly been completed, and the first construction section will be ready for use in spring 2011. The unusual amount of private financing had in this case challenged the state – and the state has accepted the challenge. During the entire long and hard winter, concrete was being laid – and the construction of a main usage area larger than 6,000 m² in only two years, including all planning and tender periods, can match private builders and provides a benchmark for public building projects. The whole project is being observed with interest in the whole of Germany – just two weeks ago, I had the opportunity of presenting the project to a public forum of the Founder's Association for German Science at the Villa Hügel in Essen.

Let me come back to the Founder's Association. You know that the City of Mainz, together with its scientific institutions, has won the competition of the Founder's Association in Berlin in spring 2010 for the title 'City of Science 2011.' In this case, the City of Mainz took the leading role, but I may claim that the application, and also the subsequent planning for



2011, has benefited considerably from the commitment of our University, in particular that of Ms. Petra Giegerich. This activity is also mainly being financed by private means. The Founder's Association provides prize money amounting to €250,000 in two equal installments. The second part will only be paid when appropriate private funding has been guaranteed. This is now ensured, because the City of Mainz has commitments for private support amounting to more than €500,000, so that the project with total costs of more than €2 million can start in January. The project provides great benefits for the City of Mainz, which will only contribute €250,000 from its own budget. The impact will by far exceed the expected attention of the media at a national level and the economic effects, in particular in the tourism sector. The University will also attract more national attention during the next year, due to this project. On this occasion, I would like to thank all those who will contribute to this activity with their own private means in the future. This also includes the state ministry responsible for us, which has supported the application from the beginning with great enthusiasm, and has provided a total of €400,000 for the undertaking.

The aspiration to break down barriers and build bridges between the campus and the city, between different people, cultures, religions, and languages, has a long tradition in Mainz and conforms to the principles of the University, which re-opened 60 years ago. As part of the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments, our University has therefore decided this summer to describe its concept of the future in the motto "The Gutenberg Spirit: Moving minds – crossing boundaries." The English phrase is justified by the fact that the applications are being judged by international experts. The "City of Science" will be a further building block on our way to a more genuine understanding and genuine communication between the people of the city, the region and "their", our, university. In June of this year, we opened the Green School in the Botanic Garden – a project that was also made possible by private donations and is particularly focused on co-operation with schools. At the previous Founder's Day, I had to conclude that we were still lacking the funds for approximately 15 microscopes that pupils of the Green School can use for experiments. Today I can tell you that we have solved this problem thanks to the generous support of Carl Zeiss MicroImaging GmbH, which was brokered by SCHOTT AG, and the private donation of Mrs. Sibylle Kalkhof-Rose. The Green School now has 17 modern microscopes with a total value of €42,000, so that we can support the urgently required scientific education of our children at a high level. Again, thanks to all of you who have made this possible with your contributions.



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Johannes Gutenberg University is not only a major scientific institution, it is also the largest employer of the City of Mainz, and one of the largest employers of the Rhineland-Palatinate state. To provide good working conditions for our staff members is therefore our concern. This increasingly includes the compatibility of work and family. In this context, we will present a further improvement of the University as a workplace to the public this week: Our new parent-child room, which was exclusively financed by a private donation. This became possible through a donation by Geotechnik Büdinger Fein Welling GmbH, who explicitly referred to the sponsorship of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation in their decision, and who have waived the full costs of the soil investigation at the building site where the new Excellence Center is being built. Thank you for this decision. It shows that sponsoring can induce others to sponsor as well.

As the last of many examples, I would like to mention a donation of the Johannes Gutenberg University Foundation that will be presented during this event: the Foundation allows our central library to purchase an expensive book scanner, so that our students cannot only copy important parts of texts, but are able to scan them, and have them available in electronic form. Thank you very much for this contribution.

However, not only the large and unusual donations are important to the life of our University. Well over 2,500 students decided last year after they completed their studies to continue their academic career and attain a doctorate; every year, 650 of them receive a doctoral certificate for their first independent scientific work that is performed under the guidance of experienced scientists. The scientific results presented in these numerous doctoral theses are the basis of the frequently-quoted "excellence" of our University in research, because the research work at the University is indeed mainly performed by these young and very committed people who have consciously decided to wait a few more years before they start to earn good money, and to dedicate their energy and time to science, which offers far more meager financial rewards. We must be aware that only some of our doctoral students receive a modest but regular income while they work on their doctoral thesis. Many must earn their living in a job that is not related to science. Only a few of them manage to get a scholarship at least during part of their doctoral work. Private donations that allow the best performers to dedicate their full energy to their research work fulfill an important and honorable duty. For this, we are grateful to you, and we are also pleased that



one of the honored prizewinners will address us subsequently: A hearty welcome to Dr. Suzan Tug, one of the scholarship holders of the Kalkhof-Rose Foundation.

I mention these examples because they show that also small amounts of money can often be of great help, and are gratefully accepted by the people concerned. This brings me to the last topic, which is a new topic for our University. German universities are often compared with those in Anglo-Saxon countries. Opinions on this issue are divided, but we have to admit that German universities, unlike those in the United States or the UK, do not have a well-developed scholarship system to support students. The Federal Government has recently decided on the introduction of the National Scholarship Program – which is to be financed in equal parts from public and private funds. The idea is very simple: the best students get a scholarship of €300 per month to support their running costs with the idea that they can then put more emphasis on their studies, and can get a good degree in a shorter period of time. One half of these €300 per month or €3,600 per year is provided by the Federal Government while the other half is provided by private funds. Those who decide to help and provide the private part of such a scholarship have to pay €1,800, which are accepted as a fully tax-deductible donation. People with an according tax rate will therefore have to provide approximately €1,000 of their private budget.

Consider that the year is almost over – and what is donated today can still be included in the 2010 tax return. These 1,000 € are more than tripled by the Federal Government to €3,600. You obviously have the opportunity to contribute smaller amounts to finance a scholarship, and everybody is of course welcome to finance more than one scholarship. The Friends of Mainz University have decided during the last board meeting to start off the program by donating the private part of the first 25 scholarships, for which we are very grateful. We are asking you today for your contribution. On your seats, you will find a brochure that summarizes the most important facts. It also contains a section that you can complete and mail to us if you are interested in this program. Private donors, by the way, have the option of supporting very specific subjects, i.e. they can stipulate that only students of a specific academic subject should benefit from their donation. I would be very pleased to see that preferably many people have decided to help our students in this way. We imagine that we will be able to bring students and their supporters together in the future, so that they can get to know each other and that donors can track how their money contributes to a good and efficient course of studies of our leaders of tomorrow. In this context, I refer to the

activities of the VOTUM Foundation, which provides financial support for orphaned and socially disadvantaged students. Mr. Hempler has kindly agreed to introduce this activity to us later.

Ladies and gentlemen, you can see how varied the responsibilities of a university are these days, and which challenges we are facing. Working at and for this University is at the same time a very satisfying activity – something I experience every day. Many thousands of young and curious students, and many highly motivated, young-at-heart scientists come together here every day. The staff who support our scientific fields, including our administration, have to face new challenges, and make contributions every day to make our joint path to the edge of knowledge more successful. I have learned in discussions with many donors that they experience deep satisfaction when they can support the work for and with young people through their own private donations, and when they can see how their contribution helps an individual or contributes to the success of the whole university. Today's event is held to thank those who are already engaged in the sponsorship of our University. Maybe we can convince some people to become involved in a foundation as well. That would make us very happy.

Thank you so much for your attention.

(University Professor Dr. Georg Krausch)