



Dear Members of the University Staff,

First of all, I would like to wish you well for the new year – all the best to you personally, and may your work for our University bring you much joy and success. The year 2012 will be marked by the 275th jubilee of our University.

Last year was dominated by the Excellence Initiative and I would like to thank all of you who were active in very different areas to contribute to the successful progress of our applications. The support that came from the academics at the University and, above all, from our partners at the institutions across the Göttingen Research Campus, was fantastic. This helped me to become very well acquainted with the University even during my first year here. The evaluation of the Institutional Strategy for the entire University, in particular, involved not only academic and administrative staff but also many other University members. They ensured that the organisation ran smoothly and prepared the rooms, with the result that the University was able to present itself admirably in every respect.

It appears that the evaluators were impressed by the proposal and were struck by the Göttingen Spirit when visiting various locations on the North Campus, the SUB, the Auditorium and the Paulinerkirche. The Göttingen Model of cooperation between the non-university research institutions and the University also met with a very positive response. For all those of you who are interested in our Institutional Strategy, from this February on the proposal will be accessible to be read in German and English at our new staff portal.

The evaluation in December of the planned new Graduate School in the humanities, GEWINA, also proceeded very positively. In January the review processes dealing with the GGNB Graduate School in the Natural Sciences, and the Cluster in the Neurosciences, take place in Berlin; this means that we must continue to keep our fingers crossed for the teams who are making this journey.

Some students at the University also supported us in the evaluation process: many thanks are due also to them. The discussions made it clear that there is still a considerable deficit of communication extending to within the student body. Addressing this deficit is an important task for 2012. I very much hope

9<sup>th</sup> of January 2012

## Content

**New year greetings**

**275 years of Göttingen University**

**New people at the University**

**Wishes for 2012**

The President

Press, Communications  
and Marketing

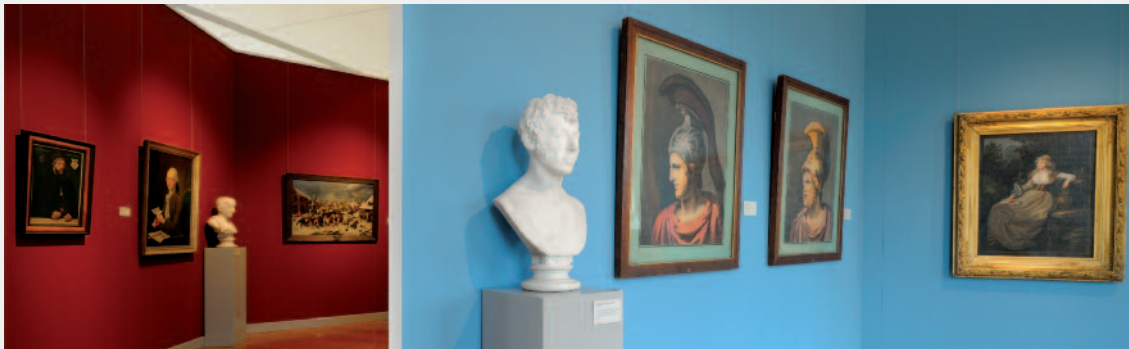
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that also those students currently active in the AstA organisation who take a clearly critical view of the Excellence Initiative will enter into discussions with us on future developmental planning concerning University teaching.

We will have to wait until June 15 for the decision on our Excellence Initiative applications. This should not hold us back from pursuing our objectives further and setting about realising the strategy, since it represents our University's aims with and without the Excellence Initiative funding. I certainly look forward very much to working together with you to put the projects we have developed into practice.



### 275 years of Göttingen University

For the period until June 15 we have arranged numerous Jubilee activities. The week of celebrations starts on May 29 and in the course of that week, various events and festivities will be taking place. Perhaps the one of most particular interest to you will be the Staff Party to be held during the afternoon of May 31 at the Humanities Campus. All staff can play an active role in this occasion and I would be delighted if you were able to participate.

We are also holding an 'Open Aula Day' on June 2, when you and all citizens of the town can take a closer look around the building – including some of the rooms of the Presidential Board. June 2 will also see the opening of the exhibition 'Objects of Knowledge' at the Paulinerkirche. Here, precious individual items from the 27 academic collections, and the concepts on which they are based, will be on show, and general questions on the history of science and scholarship considered. This exhibition will run for four months. Via a dedicated website we will shortly be informing you in greater detail on the events to be held in the framework of the Jubilee.

### New people at the University

In March a new press spokesperson will take over at the head of the Press, Communications and Marketing department of the University. Thomas Richter will be coming here from the Humboldt University Berlin and I greatly look forward to working together with him. At the beginning of January my new Personal Assistant, Anna Lene Maaß, took up her position. And we also begin the year 2012 with a new member of the Management Board at the University Medical Center: Dr. Sebastian Freytag is taking on the position with responsibility for management and administration. I look forward to our cooperation and am sure that he will be a good partner to the University.

## Wishes for 2012

My foremost personal wish for 2012 is that the Göttingen Spirit, this special mixture of excellent science and scholarship, a good social network, and great human solidarity, will endure. And



that the students and visiting academics will also be seized by it! Of course I am keeping my fingers especially firmly crossed that our proposals in the Excellence Initiative will be successful and that we can all celebrate together on June 15. And last but not least, I wish success for all the highly ambitious scientific and scholarly endeavours that were initiated last year. Among many other projects these include the 'Energy Centre' headed by Professor Alec Wodtke and further researchers, the future Courant Cen-

tres, and the new planning for the Vechta location.

I wish you good health and good fortune in 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Ulrike Beisiegel'.

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel  
President