"We, Friedrich Wilhelm by the grace of God, King of Prussia, ..." – beginning with these words, King Frederick William III of Prussia founded the University of Bonn in 1818. Today, the University bears his name. Bonn is a research university with an international focus, 38,000 students, 550 professors, 6,500 employees and around 200 majors from agricultural science to dentistry. In Bonn, the year 2018 is all about the 200th anniversary of the University. Every subject and faculty has contributed to the program of events and celebrations. More than 100 events – lectures, exhibitions, concerts and readings – are open for visitors. Some events are offered in English.

The whole program of the anniversary year can be viewed here: [www.200jahre.uni-bonn.de/de/programm](http://www.200jahre.uni-bonn.de/de/programm)
Welcome Center News

► Launch of Bonn Spouse Network

The Welcome Center and the Dual Career Service of the University of Bonn are happy to officially launch the long awaited ‘Bonn Spouse Network’ in 2018!

The ‘Bonn Spouse Network’ is supposed to be a communication platform for the partners of researchers at the University of Bonn – to interact with each other, but also to receive informative input from the Welcome Center and the Dual Career Service. After a Kick-Off event at the beginning of the year, a regular meeting is planned to be held every last Friday of the month, in the mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 am at the International Club on Poppelsdorfer Allee 53. This will be a chance to get-together, exchange experiences and learn about Bonn in general, the job market in Bonn, the schooling system and much more. The dates will be 23rd of March, 17th of April, 25th of May and 29th of June.

If your partner is interested in taking part in these events, please contact Jessica (greis-mills@uni-bonn.de) giving your partner’s contact details. They will then receive e-mails with individual information and invitations.

► New Office for the Welcome Center

In mid-February, the Welcome Center will be moving to a new office within the same building as the current office on Poppelsdorfer Allee 102. The new room is on the ground floor and will be more accessible to visitors. We look forward to meeting you in our new office!

Welcome Center Events

► Friday, 12th January: Trip to Cologne – Romano-Germanic Museum & brewery pub visit

The new program of events organized by the Welcome Center for the upcoming year will begin with a trip to Cologne. We will be visiting the Romano-Germanic Museum with a guided tour in English. Its collections are drawn from the archaeological heritage of the city and its environs, from prehistory to the early Middle Ages. Highlights are the largest collection of Roman glass in the world as well as outstanding collections of Roman and early medieval jewelry.

There will be a chance to see the adjacent Cologne Cathedral as well and afterwards a visit to a traditional brewery pub is planned.

• Meeting Point: Bonn Hbf, Platform 2
• Time: Friday, 12 January, 14:50 h (train leaving at 15:02 h)
• Web: www.roemisch-germanisches-museum.de/Homepage
Monday, 12th February: Carnival - Rose Monday Parade

For the year 2018, the Board of Carnival Associations in Bonn has decided to celebrate together with the University of Bonn on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. The motto of the carnival season 2018 in Bonn is “Loss mer Fiere un Studiere” – ‘Let’s Celebrate and Study’! For this reason, the University is inviting international researchers to join in on the fun and be part of the Bonn parade on the University’s own float.

- Meeting Point: tba
- Time: Monday, 12 February, 12.00 am
- Web: www.karneval-in-bonn.de

Events in Bonn

Opera during the Festive Season

Theater Bonn is offering a wonderful opera program during the holidays. On the 25th of December, they are performing ‘Carmen’ by Georges Bizet (sung in French) at 6.00 pm; and on the 26th of December, it is ‘Madama Butterfly’ by Giacomo Puccini (sung in Italian), at 6.00 pm as well. On New Year’s Eve, there is a very special program, consisting of Andrew Lloyd Webbers ‘Sunset Boulevard’ (two performances to choose from, 3.00 pm or 7.30 pm), followed by a party with food, dance and fireworks from 10.00 pm.

The 1st of January is greeted by a show including the concertante short operas ‘Gianni Schicchi’ and ‘Il Tabarro’ by Giacomo Puccini, beginning at 6.00 pm.
Please see the webpage of Theater Bonn for more information and on how to purchase tickets.

- **Location**: Opera Bonn, Am Boeselagerhof 1, 53111 Bonn
- **Time**: 25th December, 26th December, 31st December & 1st January
- **Web**: www.theater-bonn.de/oper/spielplan/monatsspielplan

► **Ticket Sale for Over the Border Music Diversity Festival 2018 in Bonn has started**

The **Over the Border Festival in 2018** will run from 9th to 25th of March. The Music Diversity Festival will present 18 bands during 11 events. If you like modern World Music and cross-cultural musical experiences, check out the festival’s website for the program and on how to buy tickets – before they are sold out.

- **Web**: www.overtheborder-festival.de

► **Ticket Sale for Jazzfest Bonn 2018 has started**

**Jazzfest Bonn 2018** takes place within the period of 26 April to 12 May. It showcases 24 Jazz acts in the frame of 12 double-feature concerts. The program includes Jazz legends as well as newcomers, and International artists as well as local ones. For all the details please refer to the website and get your tickets in time.

- **Location**: various
- **Time**: 26 April to 12 May
- **Public Transport**: diverse
- **Price**: varied
- **Web**: www.jazzfest-bonn.de

**Discover…**

► **Local Christmas Traditions**

Germany is a large country with many very differing traditions, local Christmas customs also vary. Generally though, the Christmas period in Germany begins on 1st Advent, which is four Sundays before Christmas Eve on the 24th of December. On this day one candle is lit on the ‘Adventskranz’ – advent wreath, traditionally made of evergreens and decorated according to taste. Then every Sunday before Christmas a further candle is lit, four altogether. For children the countdown to Christmas begins on the 1st of December, with an ‘Adventskalender’ – the advent calendar, where they open one door every day up to Christmas. This calendar consists of little surprises for the kids every day in order to shorten the waiting time; it can contain pictures, chocolates or any other little present. Before the evening of the 24th of December (almost) every family will have put up a Christmas tree in their house and decorated it according to their personal taste. It is usually lit, either with real candles on the branches or electric lighting. Many people place a ‘Weihnachtskrippe’ – a scene of the birthplace of Jesus Christ in a manger – near the Christmas tree.

On Christmas Eve, in the late afternoon a lot of people go to Church for a special Christmas mass about the birth of Jesus Christ. Often this incorporates a theatrical play of Jesus’ Birth, performed by children. After that they will go home as a family, often with grand-parents, grown-up siblings etc., and have a festive evening meal (differing in families according to their own family traditions). The main thing for the children of course is the distribution of presents. Presents are given to each other, often several at once. Officially these presents are brought by the ‘Weihnachtsmann’
– Father Christmas in a red and white suit and long white beard or the ‘Christkind’, an angel-like female figure in a white dress and long golden locks.
The first and second days of Christmas (25th and 26th of December) are holidays and usually spent relaxing, eating well and visiting extended family and friends.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas time and a very happy New Year 2018!

Contact
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