

## Message from the Editors

Here we are again, now for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Newsletter for our Bilingual Bachelor's (BiBa) in Computer Science. Our target audience is everyone who is anywhere between remotely to seriously interested in the program, but isn't "in" yet: Applicants and those of you thinking about applying, or maybe still just looking around, or waiting for the result of your application, or already enjoying the summer with your admissions letter under your belt. Also, we hope that those who see this newsletter, including teachers, will pass it on to others.

This is a busy time for anyone involved in this next term's intake. Not a day goes by without someone asking a question on our hotline ([BiBa@ovgu.de](mailto:BiBa@ovgu.de)). We try to respond quickly – generally within 120 minutes during waking hours, certainly during the day.

If you want to subscribe to this newsletter, just send a mail to our BiBa Hotline from your email address as follows:

To: [BiBa@ovgu.de](mailto:BiBa@ovgu.de)  
Subj: Subscribe

Or if you want to subscribe a friend, suppose your friend has the email address

[friend@gmail.com](mailto:friend@gmail.com), just add that mail address after the word "subscribe". By contrast, if you're tired of hearing from us or just want a break, use "unsubscribe" in the subject line instead.

In this issue you will find out about how the application portals are doing, about an exhibition currently underway in Magdeburg's Museum of Art, and how you as a student can travel for free throughout Germany. You'll meet Prof. Michael Kuhn of our faculty. Finally, you'll find out what's being served in the cafeteria. Enjoy!

**BREAKING NEWS: The Student Council of the Faculty of Computer Science will be offering a Prep-Course covering basics in Math and Programming starting Sept. 23, 2024. We will have a link on our BiBa web pages ([inf.ovgu.de/en/BiBa](http://inf.ovgu.de/en/BiBa)) with more information shortly. We highly recommend that all 1<sup>st</sup> year students take part if at all possible.**

Your  
BiBa Newsletter Editors



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The old bridge over the Elbe River connecting the city with the park on the other side. Photo: [ikopix](https://www.kopix.de)

## uni-assist and myovgu: Please be patient.

This is the busiest time of the year for applications at the University of Magdeburg. Unfortunately, that also means that it takes quite a while to get your admissions papers.

Uni-Assist, the portal for applicants with international credentials, has been up and running since April 15. Uni-Assist processes 10s of thousands of applications a month for almost all universities in Germany. Hence, it may well take a good 6 weeks before your application makes it to the BiBa Eligibility Assessment, sometimes longer, and then it can take another couple of weeks before our university administration can tell you “yes” or “no”.

For applicants with a German “Abitur”, applications are submitted via [myovgu.de](http://myovgu.de). It will take anywhere between 4 and 8 weeks (!) before it gets to the Faculty of Computer Science, and another two weeks before you get your result.

Please be patient. But before you jump ship, send an SOS to our hotline ([BiBa\(at\)ovgu.de](mailto:BiBa(at)ovgu.de)).

## Culture in Magdeburg

There are lots of things to do in Magdeburg if you want to chill out. For example, the former middle-age monastery “Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen” in the middle of town, today an art gallery, always has interesting exhibitions. It just started a new one by the renown photographer Sergiy Bratkov. It will be open through October 6, 2024 – you may even be able to visit when you first set foot on Magdeburg soil. Check out their web page by scanning the QR code.



## The Deutschlandticket / Germany-Ticket for Students

When you enroll in our BiBa, you will automatically receive a so-called Deutschlandticket, or Germany-Ticket. It enables you to travel on all regional busses, trams and subways/undergrounds (Straßenbahn, U-Bahn, S-Bahn) as well as regional trains (RE, Regio, Inter-Regio) without buying a ticket – throughout all of Germany.

This works everywhere, including Magdeburg. So for example, take the tram from the Magdeburg main station to the university, or if you take the underground in Berlin from the main station to Alexander Platz, just hop on and don’t worry about a ticket.

Examples of trips you can take from Magdeburg for free and without changing trains:

- Berlin, the nation’s capital (visit the Brandenburg Gate), 1 hour 40 minutes
- Frankfurt/Oder, a border town to Poland, 2 hours 52 min. Walk across the Oder River to Słubice and check out the market.
- Halle (visit the Giebichenstein Castle) 1 hour 6 minutes
- Leipzig (have a beer in Auerbachs Keller) 1 hour 39 minutes
- Dresden (see the famous Frauenkirche) 1 hour 46 minutes
- Braunschweig (old town), 1 hour 8 minutes
- Wolfsburg (see old-timers at the VW Museum), 1 hour 17 minutes

Note, however, that the long-distance trains, e.g. the InterCity Trains (ICE), EuroCity (EC) trains, and night trains (Nightjets) are excluded, you have to buy a ticket at the regular price for your trip. If you want to travel a longer distance, say Magdeburg to Stuttgart, you’ll either have to pay for the ICE-portion of the trip, or change trains more often to avoid the ICEs and travel entirely with regional trains – for free.

## Spotlight on Professors: Prof. Dr. Michael Kuhn

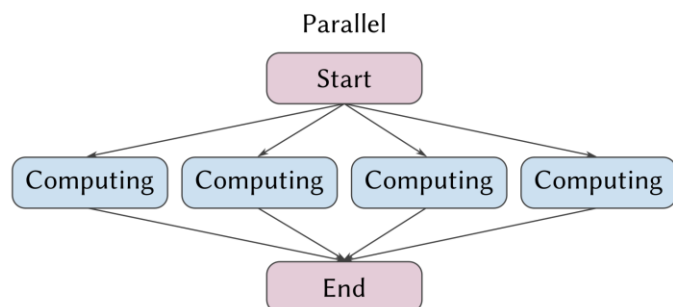
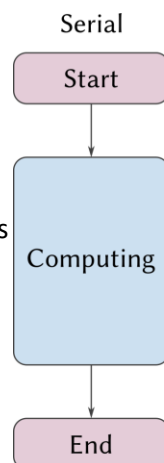
Michael Kuhn is a professor for Parallel Computing and I/O at our faculty. The courses he teaches can be taken as electives by students in the BiBa. He teaches and conducts



research in the area of parallel systems with a special focus on storage systems, I/O interfaces and programming concepts. Other interests of his include data reduction techniques and high performance computing in general.

His interest in this topic was already sparked as an undergraduate while attending the University of Heidelberg, where he completed his bachelor's and master's in 2007 and 2009, respectively. He then moved to the University of Hamburg, where he followed up with his PhD thesis on "Dynamically Adaptable I/O Semantics for High Performance Computing" in 2015. This resulted in the creation of the JULEA storage framework that is still being developed and used in both research in teaching. He stayed in Hamburg until 2020 when he moved to the OVGU Magdeburg for his current professorship.

Since even mobile phones contain multiple processor cores nowadays, parallel computing is increasingly important. Supercomputers can even consist of several million processor cores. They allow conducting highly complex analyses and simulations, which are



required to solve many scientific problems. Moreover, the exponentially growing data volumes resulting from this have to be stored, analyzed and processed.

An example of this is shown in Fig. 1, illustrating the transition from serial computing to parallel computing. Problems need to be broken down into smaller parts that can be processed concurrently while maintaining the correctness of the results. In this example, a calculation using a matrix of numerical values can be performed by four tasks in parallel, reducing the runtime to one fourth of its serial duration. However, the actual speedup will typically be less than this due to overhead caused by distribution and collection of data, as well as coordination.

For the faculty, Michael Kuhn is currently responsible for public relations, including our web pages. His group regularly offers lectures and courses on parallel programming, parallel storage systems, and other topics related to high-performance computing. He likes tinkering with systems and code when possible. Beyond that, he likes watching movies, playing video games and cooking.

Prof. Kuhn sends all readers of this Newsletter his very best regards and wishes all BiBa applicants good luck for your admissions process.

Fig. 1: Serial vs. parallel computations

## Lunch today

Wondering what kind of food is being served at the university cafeteria ("caf" for short) today, Friday, June 14, 2024? Bon appétit!

**Oven-baked tofu in garlic-chili herb marinade served with tomato-olive dip as well as a vegetable side dish and a side dish of your choice**



Students: €2.50, Externals €4.60

**Bonanza pork neck steak served with Greek tzatziki and Greek farmer's salad**



Students €3.10, Externals €6.20

**Regional asparagus in lemon sauce with garden cress and boiled potatoes**



Students €4.20, Externals €7.30

**Scrambled free-range eggs with boiled potatoes and asparagus**

Students €1.20, Externals €1.40

**Caf-Team's Cake of the Day: Cheese cake directly from the bakery**



Students €1.50, Externals €2.10

**Soup of the day**



**Asparagus cream soup**

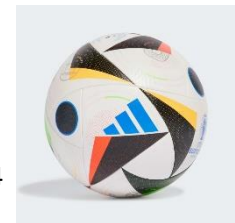


Students €0.60, Externals €1.00

Sides: mediterranean peperonata  
French fries, long grain rice, zucchini,  
marinated leaf salad, boiled potatoes

## European Soccer Championship

It is no big overstatement that Germany likes soccer! Join the excitement by taking in some games. If you think it's boring (I, Thomas Strothotte, certainly did when I first came to Germany from Canada), just keep watching and eventually you'll catch the bug, too! (I now watch voluntarily.) You'll have lots of opportunities, with Germany hosting and competing in the European Championship playing out from June 14 to July 14, 2024! Enjoy!



## Disclaimer

Bilingual Bachelor's Program (BiBa) in Computer Science

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Scan this qr  
code to see the  
current week's  
complete menu.

