



Message from the Editors

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2025! We're excited to share updates and highlights from the vibrant BiBa community as we embark on another year of learning, growth, and shared experiences.

For our current students, the end of the first semester is approaching fast, and with it, the first exam phase of the BiBa program. It's a pivotal moment in your academic journey, and we're confident that your hard work and dedication will pay off. Remember to balance your studies with self-care and reach out if you need support—success is a team effort!

Looking back, the past few months have been full of energy and connection. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we celebrated together with two unforgettable Stammtisch evenings—one with spooky Halloween flair and another full of festive holiday cheer. Our visit to the Christmas market brought a sense of joy and community, giving us all a chance to enjoy cozy moments amidst the twinkling lights and bustling stalls.

However, we cannot reflect on the holiday season without acknowledging the tragic events that unfolded in Magdeburg on December 20th. The attack at the Christmas market shook us all deeply, a stark reminder of the fragility of the moments we hold dear. Our thoughts and heartfelt sympathies go out to the victims, their families, and everyone affected by this senseless act of violence. In times like these, the strength of a community becomes more important

than ever. Let us continue to support one another, fostering resilience and kindness in the face of adversity.

As we look ahead, we're also reminded of the beauty and culture that unite us. Before exams begin, we're excited to share an upcoming cultural highlight. At the end of January, we'll be visiting Magdeburg to attend the 5. Sinfoniekonzert at the opera house. This event offers a moment of reflection and inspiration, an opportunity to honor the resilience of the city and its vibrant cultural spirit. We hope you'll join us for this memorable evening. ([Thur, 30th of January, 7.30pm, Theater Magdeburg](#))

To those considering joining the BiBa program, we hope this glimpse into our community inspires you. Beyond academics, you'll find a supportive and dynamic environment where you can grow, connect, and create lasting memories.

Wishing all our readers a successful start to the new year and the semester ahead. Whether you're preparing for exams or considering your next academic steps, we're cheering you on every step of the way!



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Thea Stiehler, M.A.
Studiengangskoordinatorin



Spotlight on Professors: Prof. Klaus Turowski

Since 2011, Prof. Dr. Klaus Turowski has been a key figure at Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg,



where he leads the Chair of Business Informatics (AG WI), the Very Large Business Applications (VLBA) Lab, and the internationally renowned SAP University Competence Center (SAP UCC). His contributions bridge academic research with practical application, particularly in the realm of large-scale enterprise systems.

Born in 1966, his academic journey began with a degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Karlsruhe. After earning his doctorate at the University of Münster, he further advanced his expertise with a habilitation in Business Informatics at OVGU. Prior to re-joining Magdeburg, he enriched his career with roles at the University of the Bundeswehr Munich and the University of Augsburg, building a robust foundation in both research and teaching.

Focusing on cloud integration and enterprise system optimization, his research into large-scale business applications has garnered significant attention. Under his guidance, the SAP UCC Magdeburg has become a global hub for SAP education and training. Recent initiatives with Google Cloud and Accenture highlight his commitment to advancing SAP cloud services and sustainable process management, ensuring students and researchers engage with cutting-edge technologies.

As a central figure within OVGU's Faculty of Computer Science (FIN), Prof. Turowski strengthens the link between teaching and research. His efforts include initiatives like the Profilstudium, offering students a balance of practical and academic experiences. Programs such as the "Web-Gründer" (Web Founder) track prepare participants to innovate in web application development with entrepreneurial expertise.

In addition to his academic and research endeavours, he has an impressive track record of organizing over 30 scientific conferences and participating in more than 130 program committees. His industry collaborations further demonstrate a seamless integration of theoretical insights and practical applications.

By combining excellence in research, education, and industry collaboration, Prof. Turowski exemplifies OVGU's mission to align academic rigor with real-world relevance.

November & December Highlights: Celebrating Community, Culture and Leadership

A Season of Celebration and Events

Throughout the semester, the BiBa at Otto von Guericke University (OVGU) hosted a variety of vibrant events that brought students together to celebrate culture, build connections, and create cherished memories.

From spooky festivities to heartwarming holiday traditions, these gatherings



highlighted the diversity and community spirit that define the BiBa program.

The celebrations kicked off with the *Halloween Stammtisch*, a lively evening of costumes, creativity, and fun. Two teams competed for a grand prize - a large bag of sweets! The evening began with a quiz covering topics like Reformation Day, German Folklore, and Geography, followed by a creative challenge where teams designed and described their scariest monsters in German for a teammate to draw. Next, students crafted spooky German Mad Lib stories, which were then performed in dramatic readings.

The competition was fierce, and the race for the prize was neck-and-neck. To break the tie, participants faced a hilarious pumpkin-decorating challenge, placing eyes and mouth on a pumpkin while blindfolded, guided only by German instructions.

The night was filled with laughter, sweets, and team-building - a memorable introduction to a Western holiday tradition.

In December, the *Holiday Stammtisch* brought warmth and cheer with a festive potluck, where participants shared dishes from their home countries. The diverse spread of food transformed the evening into a culinary journey around the world, highlighting the richness of each student's cultural background.



Picture credit: Samapika Nayak

In addition to the potluck, students shared stories of winter holiday traditions from their cultures. Each student drew a topic card and led a discussion, creating an engaging exchange of knowledge and traditions. The evening concluded with karaoke featuring songs in multiple languages, leaving everyone in high spirits.

Rounding off the year 2024, we organized an excursion to *Magdeburg's Christmas Market*, immersing students in one of Germany's most cherished traditions. The market, with its sparkling lights, traditional stalls, and seasonal treats like *Glühwein* and *Lebkuchen*, offered a magical winter experience.



Picture credit: Twisha Parmar

Students started the evening by exploring the fairy tales installations at the Christmas Market and listening to classic German tales like Snow White and Puss in Boots. Then they had a chance to experience different culinary offers, both classically German and more international. Especially fun was the medieval part of the market, where there is a Mutzbraten stand, a classical meat dish from Thuringia served with either Sauerkraut or Kale and Edithabrot, a flatbread with sour cream and different toppings. And at the end, there was a stopover to get a drink at the popular „Mauritiuskloster“ stand, where students had a chance to warm themselves up either with a traditional Glühwein or with hot cocoa or other more familiar drinks. After that, some of the group tried their skills at ax throwing, with some showing quite an aptitude for it. At the end of the evening, some students finished their trip by riding the Ferris Wheel. All in all, it was an opportunity to explore the market together and enjoy the festive atmosphere and cultural significance of this time-honored tradition.

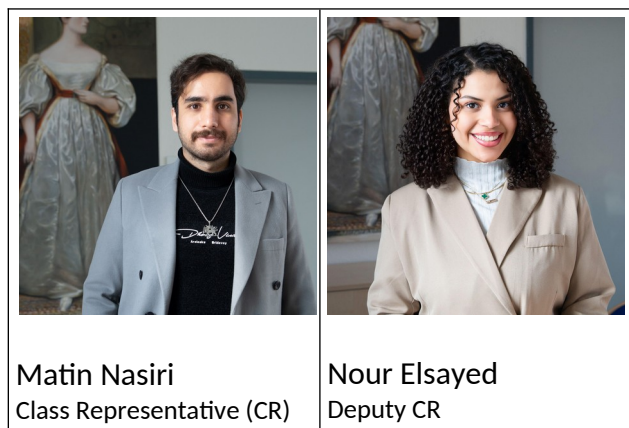


Picture credit: Claudia Krull

Class Representative Elections

During the Christmas Stammtisch, elections were held for the positions of class representative and deputy class representative. We are pleased to announce that the students have elected *Matin Nasiri* as their class representative and *Nour Elsayed* as the deputy class representative. We want to take a moment to wish both Matin and Nour a successful term ahead! They will be instrumental in representing the student body, and we are excited to see how they will contribute to the BiBa program. In our next newsletter, we will introduce Matin and Nour in more detail.

These events and elections encapsulated the essence of the BiBa program, fostering intercultural understanding, friendship, and community among students. They also provided memorable opportunities for participants to experience German culture while sharing their own traditions, making the semester truly special for everyone involved.





MDR Highlights Student Life at OVGU Magdeburg

A television crew from the public broadcaster MDR (Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk) accompanied one of our BiBa students at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (OVGU) for a day, capturing a behind-the-scenes look at university life. The segment also featured an engaging interview with Dr. Claudia Krull, who provided valuable insights into the program. Broadcast at the beginning of the new year, the feature showcased the dynamic learning environment at OVGU, bringing its academic spirit and the importance of bilingual environment for furthering one's carrier into the spotlight for a broad audience.



BiBa Calendar

Date(s)	Event / Deadline ...
Mon., Dec. 6	Holiday (<i>Epiphany</i>)
Tue. Jan. 14 - Mon. Feb. 10	Re-registration period for the summer semester
Thur., Jan. 30, 7.30pm	5. Sinfoniekonzert, Opernhaus
Mon, Feb 3 - Fri, Feb 28 Mon, Feb 17 - Fri, Mar 28	Exam phase
Thur., Feb. 20, 5.00 s.t pm	Stammtisch: Politics in Germany
Wed, Feb 1 - Mon, Apr 7	Lecture-free period

Further Information

Ref.	Description	QR-Code
p. 6	Go-To persons for FIN students, including BiBas, in case help is needed.	

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About us, your BiBa Editorial Team

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