

UGO awards for young researchers



Delighted with their awards: Annika Raapke (left), Jan Vogelsang and Stefanie Kerbstadt.

At the beginning of the new academic year the University Society of Oldenburg e.V. (UGO) once again honoured selected Oldenburg researchers. The “Award for Excellent Research”, including 5,000 euros in prize money, went to historian Dr. Annika Raapke. The “Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award”, endowed with 2,000 euros, was presented twice this time – to the two physicists Dr. Stefanie Kerbstadt and Dr. Jan Vogelsang. The award ceremony took place as part of the AUF-TAKT 19/20 event.

Dr. Annika Raapke conducts research within the “Prize Papers” project funded by the Academies’ Programme of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. The project is under the aegis of Prof. Dr. Dagmar Freist at the Institute of History. Raapke’s research focuses on the history of the body and medicine in the early modern period. One of the

main questions she is studying is how social reality is produced and represented through bodily practices. To gain insights, Raapke is also studying the physical experiences of European men and women who populated colonial structures in the Caribbean in the eighteenth century. Her work is based on letters which were written in the Caribbean between 1744 and 1826 and intended for recipients in France, but were confiscated by the British when they captured enemy ships.

Dr. Stefanie Kerbstadt completed her PhD under Prof. Dr. Matthias Wollenhaupt at the Institute of Physics. In the course of her research she developed a new construction that allows her to produce highly defined laser pulses of just a few femtoseconds (quadrillionths of a second) in duration. Kerbstadt used these customised flashes of light to observe and manipulate the physical processes underlying the

interaction of light and material. This also enabled her to steer the electrons released during the process of photo-ionisation. The physicist is currently conducting research at the Center for Free-Electron Laser Science (CFEL) in Hamburg.

Dr. Jan Vogelsang, currently a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Lund in Sweden, also completed his doctorate at the Institute of Physics. Under the instruction of Prof. Dr. Christoph Lienau, Vogelsang constructed a new type of electron microscope that can capture the movement of electrons on video. He was able to film processes such as charge separation in nanostructures with a spatial resolution of 20 nanometres and a temporal resolution of 20 femtoseconds. The achievement of such a high level of spatial and temporal resolution simultaneously set a new world record.