

## **Semester Opening 2015**

On 14 October 2015, the Regensburg American Studies Department was happy to welcome its new cohort in the American Studies and European-American Studies Master programs. The first-year Master students from regional, national, as well as international backgrounds ranging from North America to Eastern Europe were warmly welcomed in the Haus der Begegnung in Regensburg's old town by Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel (Director REAF) and Prof. Dr. Volker Depkat (Board REAF). This was followed by a further welcome by Julia Bienek, who herself had been a first-year Master student the previous year and thus passed on the torch to her fellow underclassmen and – women. Julia Bienek introduced the Grad Student Forum, an online platform for establishing a network of young American Studies scholars associated with the University of Regensburg. In a Roundtable Discussion, four further current Master students, Anna Haßkerl (entry year 2014), Sonja Rothfischer and Kurt Kalanz (both entry year 2013), and Lucy Schulz (entry year 2012) talked about their experiences as MAS/MEAS students both at Regensburg and abroad. The fruitful and open discussion was continued during an informal reception during which the students had the opportunity to get to know the Regensburg American Studies department as well as their fellow first-year students. Florian Weinzierl (REAF Assist. Coordinator) chaired the event.

REAF wishes all new and returning MA students an exciting academic year 2015/2016!

See images from the Semester Opening below.





