# UGO awards for outstanding researchers

The "Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Research" went to Stefanie Mallon (left); physicist Antonietta De Sio (second from left) and biologist Dr. Maren Striebel were delighted to receive the "Prize for Excellence in Research". UGO Chairman Werner Brinker presented the awards.

This year the University Society Oldenburg e.V. (UGO) awarded its 5,000 euro "Prize for Excellence in Research" twice: to physicist Dr. Antonietta De Sio and to biologist Dr. Maren Striebel. The "Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Research", which includes 2,000 euros in prize money, went to cultural studies scholar Dr. Stefanie Mallon.

Dr. Antonietta De Sio is investigating how electricity is generated in certain materials using light. The Italian-born researcher completed her doctorate at the University of Oldenburg's Institute for Physics and, in a working group led by Prof. Dr. Christoph Lienau, set up a unique laboratory for two-dimensional laser spectroscopy. In this procedure light pulses with a time duration of just ten billionths of a millionth of a second are used to capture the light-to-current conversion process on film. The films reveal the quantum mechanical processes underpinning energy conversion in nanomaterials. One of the chief objectives of De Sio's research is to increase the efficiency of organic solar cells and solar cells made from other materials.

Dr. Maren Striebel is studying the impact of environmental changes on plankton communities in seas and lakes. The biologist studied at the universities of Ulm and Munich and completed her doctorate at the latter in 2008. After research stays in Norway and Austria she began working in 2012 at the Wilhelmshaven site of Oldenburg University's Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM). There Striebel helped to set up the unique test facilities known as the "Planktotrons". Environmental researchers use these 600-litre containers to test under realistic conditions how communities of algae, tiny crabs and bacteria react to increased temperatures, lack of nutrients and storms.

Dr. Stefanie Mallon wrote her doctoral thesis on "The Order of Things" under Prof. Dr. Karen Ellwanger at Oldenburg University's Institute for Material Culture. The practice of putting things in order or "tidying up" is a field that has been neglected in scientific study. The processes by which the disorder that continually arises in the domestic environment is tidied up again are not as self-evident or automatic as they may seem. The cultural studies scholar used this everyday issue to trace how social processes organise themselves and determine the scope of our practices. Mallon's research also focuses on materiality and knowledge as well as order.