



# POST-GRADUATE



THE ONLINE MAGAZINE FOR DEGGENDORF ALUMNI



## ▶ PREFACE

Back from the summer break, the Alumni Office is working with the pedal to the metal. First of all we have expanded and welcome Miriam Bleck, a new employee for THD-Alumni and AlumniNet. Help is urgently needed because a lot is happening: From now on, you will find exciting little videos telling the story of a graduate under Alumni Stories on our homepage:  
<https://www.th-deg.de/de/hochschule/alumni>

Furthermore, the association AlumniNet revised its website and besides the new, appealing design new features, such as our stickers are waiting for visitors:  
<https://www.th-deg.de/alumninet/>

In addition, the association has introduced an app for all members. This is to make the network visible and finally enables networking from member to member. You can now see everything that happens on campus comfortably on your phone. We now recruit more of our professors from our ranks of Alumni and the results from the last graduate survey are finally here. You will also once more find exciting resumes of our Alumni in this issue, we, your Alma Mater, could not be any more proud.

Best regards

yours

Ulrike Sauckel

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## ▶ DATES & EVENTS

### ▶ DIT

#### **15 Oct**

Colloquia Series:  
Filtration as Key Enabling Technology  
for Clean Mobility

#### **17 Oct**

Master Info-Day

12:00 - 14:00 Info-Points at the campus  
from 17:30

Podium discussion with the  
Süddeutsche Zeitung,  
[https://pmit-ext.th-deg.de/  
seminare/dates/view/713](https://pmit-ext.th-deg.de/seminare/dates/view/713)

#### **17 Nov**

This Academicus, large town hall

#### **21 Nov from 14:00**

Symposium "Modern human resource  
management in public administration -  
Strong municipalities need managers" -  
Glashaus THD,  
Registration: [https://pmit-ext.th-deg.de/  
iqw-seminare/](https://pmit-ext.th-deg.de/iqw-seminare/)

### ▶ AlumniNet

#### **17 Nov**

Between Dies Academicus  
and prom - Get together

#### **17 Nov**

Prom, small town hall

### ▶ Seminars for Young Professionals

#### **13 Oct**

Gewonnen wird im Kopf, verloren auch

#### **9 Nov**

Business etiquette at the Zenger Wirt  
in Neuhausen



Alumni Portraits

▶ **ROB C. J. VAN GILS, MASCHINENBAU-ALUMNI 2003**  
CEO HAI GROUP (480 MILLIONEN UMSATZ, 1.150 MITARBEITER, 6 EU-STANDORTE)



**Please describe your academic and professional career**

Elementary school in the Netherlands, then grammar school – cancelled after moving to Austria, a year of secondary school in Austria, then secondary school in Simbach/Inn and technical secondary school in Pfarrkirchen and finally DIT.

In the last year of my MB studies I worked as a student trainee at Austria Metall AG (AMAG), from autumn 2002 I had a permanent position and written my diploma thesis as part of an AMAG project. Then I started as assistant to the managing director of AMAG Casting GmbH. Two years later, I was promoted to Production Manager and, due to his increasing responsibility for the P&L, in 2005/2006 obtained an MBA from the University of Louisville while working. At the end of 2006, I became plant

manager at AMAG Extrusion GmbH, which in 2007 became Hammerer Aluminium Industries GmbH as part of a spin-off.

In 2008 I became managing director of the recycling and foundry departments and spent almost 2 years in Romania to build and start up a new plant there. In 2010, when I returned to Austria, I was appointed CEO of the HAI Group. At that time, the company had 2 locations and 260 million sales with 480 employees. Together with my team, we succeeded in using the difficult years after the economic crisis for a strategic reorientation and so we could almost double our turnover to 480 million by 2017 and even more than double the number of jobs to 1150! HAI currently supplies high-quality aluminium components for the automotive industry and all other transport segments from 6 locations in Austria, Romania and Germany, as well as for numerous applications in construction and industry.

**Nostalgia welcome: Please describe your time at DIT**

After the technical secondary school I wanted to study an engineering course and at that time Mechanical Engineering in Deggendorf was in the middle of development. Since many of my classmates were also going to study in Deggendorf, the decision was made quickly and I never regretted it. At that time, it was almost family. Contact to the professors was possible at any time and very informal... including one or two beers in the "Ruderhaus". Professionally, (most. 😊) professors were in a good and committed to teach successfully. ... (I will never forget Professor Nitsche's picture of how he used his "belly" in combination with things he found in the room to explain descriptive geometry... 😊).

to be continued  
on the next page



## Alumni Portraits

I still remember the basic studies as "dry" and very theoretical and so some lectures after one or the other student party were a bit tedious... but after division into our majors, it was very interesting and I gained a lot of knowledge which is still very useful for me today.

In our majors, we essentially had private tuition. We were four students in Production Engineering. I still have contact to our professor Joachim Helml and he even visited me in Romania about two years ago.

I hope that DIT has managed to keep this close student contact alive, although it seems almost impossible considering DIT's growth.

### What advice would you give current students?

1) Use the study time – not only to acquire knowledge – but also to form friendships and networks – I still have contact with some fellow students and one of them is the managing director of our Romanian plant.

2) Make sure you spend a semester abroad! The experiences you'll make there are an invaluable gain! The challenge of having to "survive" in a completely new environment in a foreign language shapes and encourages you to take on challenges later and master them!

3) Create a good "study-/life balance". The time as a student is unique and in later life you will never again have so much time for yourself and your interests!

## New Profs

### ▶ PROF. DR. WOLFGANG AUMER



Since August 1, 2018, Dr. Wolfgang Aumer has been a new professor at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) he has been lecturing in the field of Mechatronic Systems, where he is mainly employed at the Technology Campus Cham.

He came into early contact with the DIT. After completing his secondary education at the Realschule Roding, he completed an apprenticeship as an electronics installer at BSH in Regensburg. After obtaining his university entrance qualification at BOS Cham, he

studied Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at DIT. He completed his studies with great success in 2003 and obtained his master's degree at the Technical University of Munich. Afterwards, he moved to Dresden, where he worked as a research assistant at the Chair of Agricultural Systems Engineering at the Technical University of Dresden.

His research activities dealt with electric drive systems in agricultural machines and their processes, which he also did his doctorate on. Specifically, his dissertation dealt with the functional integration of electric drives for a higher degree of automation in agricultural machinery and the progress towards autonomous systems. His research results met with a great response at international conferences and in specialist journals, among other places, and prompted him to take an additional distance learning

course in agricultural management at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. The focus here was on the interaction between humans, nature and technology.

Because of his exemplary career, Prof. Aumer brings along a lot of experience in the field of mechatronics and the development of new technologies. Although he left his beloved Dresden and his colleagues at the TU with a heavy heart, he now wants to pass on his experience as a professor to the students and use it to expand existing connections between companies and the Cham Technology Campus.

Prof. Aumer has always remained closely associated with the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, was a frequent guest at the Dies Academicus and has been a loyal member of AlumniNet e.V.

New Profs

▶ DR. MICHELLE CUMMINGS-KOETHER



From 1 October 2018, Prof. Dr. Michelle Cummings-Koether will be teaching Intercultural Management at the European Campus Rottal-Inn in Pfar-  
rkirchen.

After study stays in the US, Canada and Great Britain, the communications expert completed her doctorate in Salzburg and worked for eleven years as an independent consultant in the intercultural field for companies in Europe and the US.

She gained teaching experience as a lecturer at the Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich and at Hochschule Fresenius & Akademie University of Applied Sciences for Fashion and Design.

Prof. Dr. Cummings-Koether's teaching will focus on intercultural topics, such as cooperation between people from different cultures, leadership of international employees, but also topics related to management and communication. She plans to introduce the „Intercultural Competencies“ certificate for students in Pfarrkirchen.

Commenting on her new assignment, she said: "I discovered intercultural communication as part of communication sciences at the beginning of my

studies and have specialised in it ever since. This subject is particularly exciting because it also extends to the fields of business administration and psychology, which means that many interdisciplinary topics can be covered. With family on three continents and friends on five continents, my subject is not only my profession, but also something I live for".

Dr. Cummings-Koether, who grew up in Munich and Silicon Valley, California, is looking forward to her new job in Pfar-  
rkirchen: "It's nice to be able to work where others go on vacation. In my spare time, I will be exploring the beautiful Rottal with my family and our dog."

▶ "UNTERTITEL" DIT'S PRINT MAGAZINE

The new issue of the Untertitel has been published. Members of AlumniNet will find a copy in their mailbox.

Non-members who are interested in what is going on at DIT can browse through our digital edition:

<https://www.th-deg.de/de/hochschule/publikationen/hochschulmagazin>





## ▶ THREE MEDIA TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS AND THEIR START-UP

**The Keksfabrik (biscuit factory) in Munich does not produce pastries, but films, marketing campaigns and software. With their start-up, the three founders show what you can do with studying media technology.**

Media technology is a broad field: from computer science to electrical engineering, film and direction to graphic design, everything is possible. For the three alumni Benedikt Meirer, Huy Truong and Yannic Hieber this was a decisive advantage. The acquaintance at university eventually turned into a successful company with two mainstays.

They met in 2004 while studying media technology at

camera work, Yannic directed and wrote the script, Benedikt took care of production and organization. "Studying media technology helped a lot because it taught a wide range of skills," says Yannic and adds: "You learn a lot, but you can also set a focus."

After their studies, Benedikt started as a trainee at ProSiebenSat.1, Yannic worked as an editor and producer at various production companies such as Janus Media and Huy ended up as a server operator at Sky.

The division of labour from their studies was also reflected when the three finally founded the Keksfabrik in 2009: As Creative Director, Yannic Hieber is responsible for story-

Benedikt Meirer is managing director of LockitNetwork GmbH and responsible for management and customer acquisition. Even though Benedikt is officially the managing director, they determine the fate of the biscuit factory as a team of three. "For us this division simply made sense", explains Yannic, "everyone has their favourite area."

Through their work on sets, the three realized that a software solution for the very analogue work of script/continuity was missing. Why should one still use paper and pen in the 21st century, when an app not only stores all entries more easily, but can also record metadata directly from the camera?

So the idea of LockitScript was born. Meanwhile the app is used in many productions – from the mountain doctor to the Rosenheim cops to the Netflix series Dark.

The Keksfabrik currently consists of eleven permanent employees, five of whom have studied at DIT. There are flexible working hours and overtime compensation, lemonade, a retro pinball machine and office dog Rocky. The plan for the next few years: to become even bigger in the future. Benedikt: "Currently we could use support in the area of animation/motion design. DIT graduates are very welcome."



Die drei Gründer der Keksfabrik: Yannic Hieber, Benedikt Meirer, Huy Truong

the TH Deggendorf. "Our first project together was our graduation film 'Paarreim'," recalls Huy. "That was before the Keksfabrik officially existed." Huy was responsible for editing and

boards, campaign concepts and user experience. As Chief Technological Officer, Huy Truong is responsible for technology, editing and animation.

AlumniNet

▶ GET THE APP!



AlumniNet now offers its members an app that makes the network visible and tangible. It enables communication between each other, in short, the network is within reach: students, alumni and professionals in one app.

Alumni can use their company logo, filter by company, perhaps even identify colleagues they didn't know about and students or alumni looking for a job can search specifically for alumni of this one company.

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Students finally have the campus on their mobile phones, and new groups using the app are added daily. So your mobile phone is sufficient to keep you in the loop about what's going on around campus.

The app is for all members of AlumniNet.

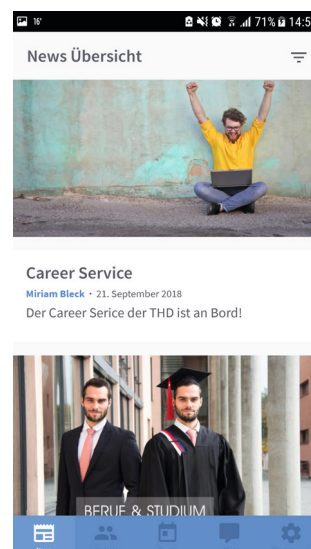
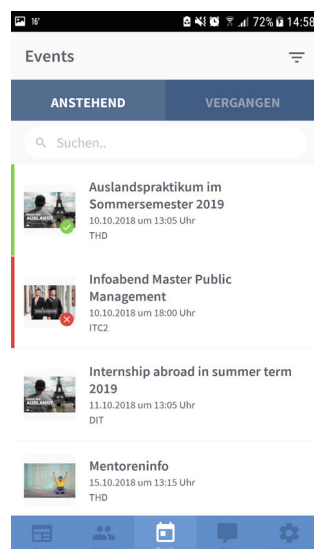
<https://www.th-deg.de/alumninet/index.php/jetzt-mitglied-werden>

**Click here for the app :**

[th-deg.de/alumninet](https://www.th-deg.de/alumninet)

Play store: Members App

App store: Members App



Companies introduce themselves: Kromberg und Schubert

## ▶ KROMBERG UND SCHUBERT

**We process more than 4,000,000 km of cable per year to get you to your destination!**

Kromberg & Schubert is an international technology group with a medium-sized background and over 110 years of company history. With more than 48,000 employees at over 40 locations worldwide, our commitment, flexibility and constant innovation make us one of the leading suppliers of wiring systems, cables and plastics technology in the automotive industry.

We supply all major German automotive manufacturers worldwide with a wide variety of wiring systems for passenger cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles: body, engine, cockpit, door, audio and communication cable harnesses, battery cables and overmolded cable harness modules. The greatest challenge, however, is the combination of "partial cable harnesses" and the integration of various components, such as special cables and plastic parts, to form a complete system. Our customers also include inter-

national automotive suppliers. For them, we develop and produce small cable harnesses for lighting, seating and air-conditioning systems.

Expertise is an important building block for success in mastering the challenges at our locations around the world. In addition to solution-oriented thinking and action, a great deal of communication skills is required when working in our interdisciplinary teams. In order to achieve common goals, our employees are highly motivated, independent, proactive and, above all, able to work in a team. A healthy pragmatism is indispensable for a job at Kromberg & Schubert. Willingness to travel and a very good command of English are self-evident.

No matter if direct entry, trainee program, thesis, working student or internship – at Kromberg & Schubert you can take on responsible tasks e.g. in the fields of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, mechatronics, information technology or economics.

"Here I am dealing with very varied and, as I said, responsible tasks. Above all, I enjoy a lot of freedom to improve and design. I have the feeling that I can really make a difference. This is a lot of fun and motivates me", says our employee Veronika R., for example, who started her career at Kromberg & Schubert immediately after completing her studies.

Don't get your wires crossed, set new impulses! Is that your motto also?

Then apply for an exciting career start directly via our online portal:

[www.karriere-ist-lila.de](http://www.karriere-ist-lila.de).

Or visit us next year at our trade fair stand at firstcontact – we will be there – as every year!







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