

# Alumni Magazine

## KontakTUM

### In Rio and Beyond

Why international exchange is particular important for young students and how a modern university can adopt a global mindset: Interviews with President Thomas F. Hofmann and alumni from the TUM Community

Shaping  
**the new world**  
Together

FALL  
WINTER



A portrait of a young woman with short, light brown hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue gradient.

**TUM Alumna Dr. Amelie Schoenenwald**  
ESA reserve astronaut

*"The Deutschlandstipendium enabled me to make my first industry contacts while still concentrating fully on my studies. It helped my passion for science and complex interconnections to blossom."*

## **You too can support talented young minds with the TUM Deutschlandstipendium!**

The Deutschlandstipendium is awarded to gifted, high-performing students. It creates space for them to develop as people and get involved in their community, thereby helping them to realize their full potential.

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# EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

I recently received an email from the Arctic Ocean. To be more precise, it was from a TUM Alumnus, Ruben Schulte-Hillen. When he wrote to me, he was in the middle of an expedition on the Polarstern, a research icebreaker, where he was conducting microbiological research into bacteria living in the ice.

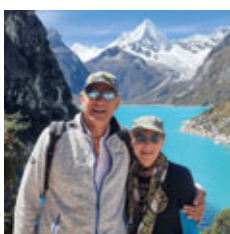
The same week I received the message from Ruben, I interviewed an alumnus in Latin America who is working as an engineer on a project to modernize the Panama Canal. I also spoke with a professor in Africa, met Singapore's new ambassador in Berlin – both of whom are TUM Alumni – and advised a doctoral candidate from China on how to take the first steps in her career in Germany.

That evening, over dinner with my family, I complained that everyone seemed to be gaining a wealth of experience abroad, except for me. My husband, who often says just the right things and whose glass is always half full, succinctly replied: "But where's the need? The world comes to you every day!" And he was right. Every single day, my work shows me how the TUM Community unites people from all around the entire world.

Talented minds from the four corners of the globe come to TUM to learn and work together, to tackle new challenges, to live, laugh and make lifelong friendships. I love their internationality: it broadens my mind and opens me up to new perspectives and entire worlds I have never encountered before. It feels like going on a journey without ever having to travel. So I hope that when reading this issue, you will be able to feel the diversity of TUM and our deep appreciation of the wonderful people in the TUM family.

Wishing you enjoyable and exciting reading,

Yours,  
Sabrina Eisele  
on behalf of the KontakTUM editorial team  
[alumniandcareer@tum.de](mailto:alumniandcareer@tum.de)



## A Year on the Road

In July 2022, TUM Alumnus Kai-Olaf Dammenhain (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1989) and his wife, Bettina, embarked on an extraordinary journey. They have been traveling the Pan-American Highway from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego in Argentina ever since. This photo of the couple was taken in Huaraz, Peru. In the background is Laguna Paron, the largest lake in the Cordillera Blanca, which forms part of the Peruvian Andes. You can also find updates on their journey on our Instagram channel: [@tum.alumni](https://www.instagram.com/tum.alumni)

# POPULATION GENETICS IN NORWAY

Short days and long nights awaited TUM Alumnus Lukas Metzger (Master's in Biology 2021) in Norway. He spent a semester in Trondheim through the Erasmus+ program in 2019, working as a research intern with focus on population genetics.

You can find further examples of the time our students and alumni have spent abroad from page 42.

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KontakTUM Fall/Winter 2023

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President Prof. Dr. Thomas F. Hofmann  
at the alumni meet-up in Singapore

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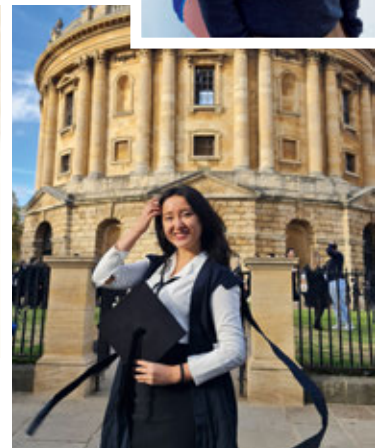
Successful manager: TUM Alumna Dr. Silke Maurer

Land management expert:  
TUM Alumnus Prof. Dr. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu



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Adventures abroad:  
Stories and photos from the last 50 years

True  
progress  
is only possible  
when different

perspectives

come  
togg



Prof. Thomas F. Hofmann, President of TUM, visited the TUM Asia Campus in Singapore in early July. He offered a few words to open the alumni meet-up.

# ether



TUM Alumni gather in Singapore at least once per year to socialize and network. The event was organized by TUM Asia, TUM's campus in Singapore. TUM President Prof. Thomas F. Hofmann (second row, second from right) attended the event once again and enjoyed chatting with the alumni.





As President of TUM, Prof. Thomas F. Hofmann has guided the university's destiny for four years. Fostering international exchange and building TUM's global network are duties very close to his heart. During his time as a postdoc at TUM's Garching Campus, he saw for himself how different perspectives on a project can generate innovative solutions.



The reception for the TUM Alumni meet-up in Singapore took place on the rooftop terrace, which offers views across the sprawling city's skyline.



In early July, TUM President Prof. Thomas F. Hofmann traveled to Singapore, where he met with TUM Alumni. We took his visit as an opportunity to speak with him about his international experiences as a researcher and as the university's leader. He also shared his thoughts on TUM's global university community.

**Mr. President, you recently paid a visit to TUM Asia, the university's campus in Singapore. How important are such events for you?**

I try to visit all our locations regularly. I visit TUM Asia at least once per year. Getting an unvarnished impression of situation on the ground and meeting colleagues, partners, students and alumni face to face – these things are very important to me. I've seen for myself how things are going there, where the challenges and opportunities lie. It's entirely different to simply reading or hearing about it. And, I have to tell you, it's also hugely enriching on a personal level. This time, for example, I was able to take part in the annual

**What are particular sources of pride for the alumni?**

I got the impression that, for many of them, the fact that TUM is a true pioneer in socially relevant fields like sustainability and artificial intelligence, providing top-class teaching and research, is crucial to this sense of pride. It's important to them that TUM continues to enhance its reputation in the international arena and that they, as alumni, can contribute to TUM's good name. Even after finishing their studies, our alumni continue to feel a sense of belonging to the TUM family, which is something I certainly felt during the event. As it happens, Singapore's new ambassador to Germany is a proud TUM Alumnus.

Creativity comes about when people aren't all cut from the same cloth and instead think a little differently.

alumni meet-up in Singapore. What a wonderful event it was, hosted on the rooftop terrace at TUM CREATE with a magnificent view over the Singapore skyline. I enjoyed a number of positive conversations with our graduates. Unforgettable.

**What did you discuss with the alumni?**

We talked about their experiences and memories of studying at TUM Asia, of course, but also where their careers have taken them since. Many are still based in Singapore – often, interestingly enough, working at German companies that have an office there. I was struck by the how strongly connected our alumni who studied in Singapore feel, not only to the TUM Asia Campus but to TUM in general. They're proud of their home university in Germany. And, obviously, that was pleasing to hear! (laughs)

**Really?**

Yes. Ambassador Chong Hock Lee came to the alumni meet-up, which I was thrilled about. He graduated from TUM with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2001. I spoke with him at length about his time at TUM, which he remembers extremely fondly. He hugely enjoyed his time studying in Munich. He's impressed by how TUM has developed since his student days and feels proud of his alma mater. In August, he became Singapore's new ambassador to Germany and has been based in Berlin since. He promised me that he would come to visit TUM in the near future. Maybe we can organize an exchange between alumni and students. As I said, the TUM family comes together time and again.



### **Why exactly does TUM have a campus in Singapore?**

As a location, Singapore simply could not be more international. It's in Asia but is also a gate to the West, so it attracts talented minds from every region around the world. This makes it the ideal location for TUM. On the one hand, it enables us to educate capable young minds. We need young people who are able to operate on the global labor market and shape our future in an increasingly networked world. On the other hand, our campus in Singapore also attracts scientists for our research and innovation projects. Our research platform in Singapore is called TUM CREATE. We cooperate with partner universities, public institutions and companies to develop new, pioneering technologies.

### **Can you give us an example?**

Our most recent program is called Proteins4Singapore. It represents nothing less than a revolution in food production. Singapore has set itself the goal of producing a third of its own food by 2030 rather than importing it. Agricultural land in Singapore is limited, so researchers are looking for space-saving ways to produce high-protein food, such as through biotechnological methods and indoor farming.

### **And why does this matter for us in Germany?**

This is a project of global significance. The United Nations has predicted that there will be numerous megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants within just a few years. At that point, more than half of the global population will be living in urban areas. In parallel with this, experts forecast that food production will need to increase by 60% by 2050. So, in Singapore, we're developing strategies to ensure that humanity can produce food sustainably in the future.

### **As the President of TUM, you're tasked with fostering international exchange in science.**

#### **Where does your dedication come from?**

As a young researcher, I attended international symposia from an early stage in my career. I held my first international speech in London in 1995. That was right after I received my doctorate. After that, I went to several international conferences each year, especially in the USA, where I built a personal network. My speeches and international visits continued to raise the profile of our laboratory in Munich and a number of international doctoral candidates and postdocs were happy to work with us.

#### **Did it provide input for your own research?**

Yes, absolutely. Every week, we had a round table at which various young researchers would present their projects. The audience listened to everything and then played the

role of peer reviewers. (laughs) One thing is for sure: when different people from different cultures looked at your project, it highlighted new aspects to which you might have devoted little or no attention. It substantially broadened my horizons and definitely advanced my research. What I learned is that true progress is only possible when you look at a problem from different perspectives. Creativity comes about when people aren't all cut from the same cloth and instead think a little differently. To this day, I enjoy sourcing advice from my international colleagues.

### **Who do you turn to, for example?**

Our TUM ambassadors are an important group of people for me. These are elite international academics who have spent time at TUM as guest researchers. This means that they know our university, what we stand for and what we want to achieve, along with the areas in which we're a world class university. For me, our ambassadors are vital scientific advisors – in relation to the Excellence Initiative, for example, or with other high-profile competitive programs. I enjoy discussing these issues with my international colleagues and asking their opinion. It is particularly important to approach larger challenges with diverse, international teams.

### **Is this why TUM places such emphasis on fostering an international university community?**

I want to ensure that, as early as possible in their studies, our students to have the opportunity to learn the importance of liberal, open-minded exchange between different perspectives. We want to educate young people to become capable thinkers, doers and reformers, leaders who can shape our social coexistence. Anyone who leaves TUM with a Master's degree or a doctorate will soon be tasked with assembling their own teams, whether they go to work in business or in academia. When they do, I want them to consider just how crucial diversity is to a project. We also want our students to demonstrate social responsibility as the professionals of the future. To do that, they need to be able to view the world as a whole. Giving them a sense of the world as a community during their time at university is hugely helpful to this end.

### **And how does TUM do that?**

Fostering an international university community at our TUM locations is an important factor. However, we also place an emphasis on giving our students wide-ranging opportunities to complete internships or study or work abroad for a semester during their time at TUM. We also encourage doctoral students to undertake research visits at other institutions. Each semester, we send numerous students and doctoral candidates around the world. Many come



Connecting with members of the university community is a top priority for President Thomas F. Hofmann. With this in mind, he is always delighted to have the opportunity to meet TUM Alumni in person.



For technologies and new approaches to have an impact, they need to be implemented on a global scale, as quickly as possible.

back with a new sense of purpose and brimming with new ideas. It really is wonderful to see. Our TUM offices in Brussels, Mumbai, Beijing, São Paulo and San Francisco play an important role in this, as does the TUM Asia Campus in Singapore. They act as global hubs, creating connections not only with local students and alumni but also with companies and partner organizations. In this way, they extend TUM's reach and spread its services around the entire world. The world will not wait for Germany: if we want to shape the future, we need to embrace the world.

#### **What do you mean by that?**

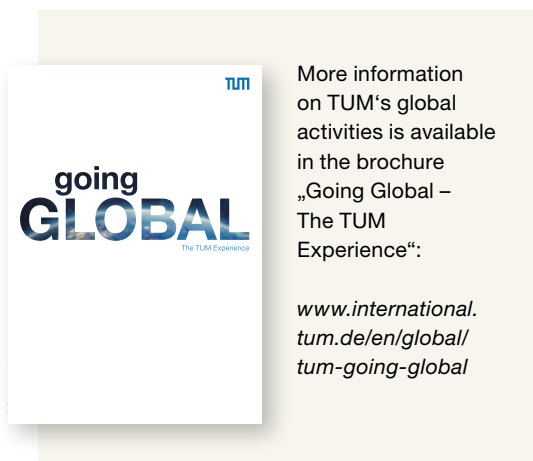
The global challenges we face cannot be tackled by insular solutions or even regional solutions. For technologies and new approaches to have an impact, they need to be implemented on a global scale, as quickly as possible. Our students, researchers and alumni must exert their influence in society and in the political sphere on issues such as sustainability. They need to make the right decisions, have a command of the appropriate technologies and solutions, and convey new ideals and values, so that they can make a real difference. If they can achieve this, it will benefit everyone in the end.



# At Home in Bavaria, **SUCCESSFUL** around the **WORLD**

As a technical university, TUM bears responsibility for developing solutions to the major challenges of the future. Nevertheless, global challenges – such as protecting the climate – can only be tackled together, as a global community.

This is why TUM attaches such importance to creating global links with the best international partners. With the TUM Asia satellite campus in Singapore, the five TUM Global Liaison Offices across four continents and the vibrant links to a global alumni community, TUM creates impactful partnerships, attracts outstanding talent to Munich and ensures that TUM's insights and innovations reach a global audience. By maintaining strategic international networks, alliances and flagship partnerships, TUM's global engagement offers unique conditions for developing and trialing novel collaboration formats.



## TUM Global Liaison Offices on Four Continents

What began with a grand vision 17 years ago has since developed into a major success story. TUM Global Liaison Offices are the crucial link between TUM and the wider world.

### TUM Beijing

TUM Beijing played a pivotal role in expanding our cooperations with universities in China. It was vital, for example, in establishing our flagship partnership with Tsinghua University.  
[www.international.tum.de/en/global/beijing](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/beijing)

### TUM Brussels

TUM Brussels is the first port of call for queries about cooperations with European partners. It coordinates the activities of a European university alliance (EuroTech) and represents TUM's interests in the EU.  
[www.international.tum.de/en/global/brussels](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/brussels)

### TUM Mumbai

TUM Mumbai is heavily involved in the activities of German and Bavarian stakeholders in India and gives TUM researchers access to one of the world's largest research and education markets.  
[www.international.tum.de/en/global/mumbai](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/mumbai)

### TUM San Francisco

TUM San Francisco connects entrepreneurship activities at TUM with the Silicon Valley start-up science and fosters cooperation with leading institutions in the USA and Canada.  
[www.international.tum.de/en/global/sanfrancisco](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/sanfrancisco)

### TUM São Paulo

Focusing on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, TUM São Paulo supports partnerships across the South American content and assists with efforts to recruit young talent.  
[www.international.tum.de/en/global/sao-paulo](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/sao-paulo)

## TUM Asia

### the TUM campus in Singapore

In 2002, TUM Asia became the first overseas campus established by a German university. Thanks to cooperations with the region's leading universities and companies, it offers modern engineering programs and close industry links to students from across Asia, the USA and Europe. A strong management focus gives students the perfect preparation for a career in industry.  
<https://tum-asia.edu.sg>

## Flagship Partnerships around the Globe

TUM's flagship partnerships consolidate its relationships with leading universities in common areas of expertise, many of which have flourished for decades.

### Imperial College London, United Kingdom

TUM is linked with its strategic partner, Imperial College London, through a number of research cooperations. Both universities see this partnership as a commitment to global cooperation.

### Tsinghua University, China

Dating back almost 30 years, the cooperation between TUM and Tsinghua is intensified by a flagship partnership on topics including lifelong learning and entrepreneurship.

### University of Queensland, Australia

The partnership between the University of Queensland and TUM is a prime example of an international relationship that facilitates an exchange of knowledge at the highest level in spite of the vast geographical distance.

## A Strong European Presence

TUM also cooperates with numerous partners across Europe, working with them to shape the European education agenda.

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of leading European universities that aims to promote science and technology. Founded in 2006, the Alliance has operated from Brussels since 2011:

Technical University of Denmark (DTU)  
 École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)  
 École Polytechnique (I'X)  
 Technion Israel Institute of Technology  
 Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)  
 Technical University of Munich (TUM)

A range of multifaceted European initiatives elevate engineering education to the next level, ensuring future generations are ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. The EuroTeQ Engineering University ranks as the most important instrument in this context. This future-oriented educational program enables lifelong learning and is available to students at six partner universities:

Technical University of Denmark (DTU)  
 Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)  
 École Polytechnique (I'X)  
 Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU)  
 Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech)  
 Technical University of Munich (TUM)





TUM Alumna Silke Maurer puts her heart and soul into her managerial duties. She has shouldered considerable responsibility in roles at several major companies, from the automotive sector and the domestic appliance industry to an engine manufacturer. In her career, she has developed a talent for putting the right people in the right positions and guiding processes towards success. Her experiences managing teams around the world, from Spain to China, have had a lasting impact on her view of leadership. At the same time, Silke Maurer believes in the importance of finding enjoyment in everything she does. She emboldens people to deliberately embrace challenges in order to broaden their horizons. Her own career is evidence that this approach can lead to a fulfilling, fascinating working life.

**I've learned  
a great deal  
from my  
international  
teams.**

When people  
work together  
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one plus one  
suddenly  
equals three.

**Ms. Maurer, you are a top-level manager working in German industry. Was that always your career goal?**

I didn't have a career plan or anything like that. I never expressed a desire to be on management boards. However, I've always been interested in how people work and the conditions they need to work well together. I understood at a very early stage that I'm part of a greater whole and that, when people truly work together at eye level, one plus one can suddenly equal three. This mindset continues to shape my everyday work to this day.

**What do you mean by that?**

As a manager, I am a part of my team. I don't stand above the team. Instead, I'm part of the network of people responsible for making sure a project or department achieves success. It's also my duty to ensure that people in the team can work together effectively. Part of my formula for success, I think, is my ability to assemble teams strategically. I can identify relatively quickly who can do certain things well and what an effective team for a given project should look like.

**How would you describe your management style?**

I've always felt it was important to be accessible as a manager. Occasionally, this has met with a lack of understanding from my superiors in the past. In fact, one of my bosses once advised me to maintain a constructive distance from my team. I thought long and hard about it for three nights and then decided: "No. That's not who I am. I can't do that and I don't want to, either." A year later, he came to me and apologized for his advice. He thought

my accessible management style would prevent me from making clear statements or implementing disciplinary measures. In reality, however, I was able to and did just that.

**Your first management role was at BMW at the age of 29. Was it a challenge for you?**

Absolutely. I was still very young and suddenly had to lead a team of 18 people from different disciplines. The people in the team ranged from 26 to 63 years old and were involved in every possible type of project. It was a very diverse situation. That time had a fundamental impact on me. I made mistakes, of course. I learned a lot about things that don't work in management. However, I had a wonderful boss who advised and supported me well. Honestly, though, it was nothing compared to my time in Italy.

**Three years later, you took on another role at BMW – or, to be precise, Husqvarna Motorcycles – in Italy.**

When I started there, I rather naively thought: "It's still BMW and it's only 300 miles away, on the other side of the Alps." But I soon realized just how different the working culture can be in another country.

**How would you say that experience changed you as a manager?**

I learned to examine things even more closely. To begin with, I did things similarly to how I had learned and tried them in Germany. In Italy, however, I had very different results. Initially, I felt confused, baffled – but then I decided to view the whole thing as an experiment. What had I done? What impact did it have? What variables can I change? Eventually, I got the hang of it. The crucial thing was that I didn't say: "They're stupid here because I've done this successfully elsewhere but it's not working here." Instead, I examined why certain things work differently there. I also accepted the answers, even when they didn't fit in with my past experiences or align with my own values. In the course of my career, I've managed numerous teams all around the world: from Spain to China, from Turkey to Poland. I've always been able to learn a great deal from my international teams.

**Can you give us some examples?**

The German style of negotiation, which is very direct, doesn't always lead to success. Interpersonal interactions in the workplace are hugely important. There is usually more than one potential solution that can deliver good results. In addition, many countries have a far higher proportion of women in management positions than we do in Germany. In Turkey, for example, I got the sense that women feel they are entitled to some career progress in return for all the time and energy they have invested in their studies.

**Why do you think the situation in Germany is so different?**

Our role as mothers, and the part-time work trap, plays a major role in this. And, of course, we also need to rethink the requirements of management roles. That being said, I also think that many women in Germany spend too much time fretting about handling as much as they can on their own, so they end up choosing the obvious, widely accepted solution: part-time work. Of course, it's absolutely fine for you to decide to pause your career or put it on the back burner. However, you should ensure you make that decision for yourself and not for anyone else. If you love your job, it's entirely normal to want to take on more responsibility.

**You have a teenage daughter. How did you make decisions about your career when she was younger?**

I have – and have always had – a distinct need to help shape things, to play my part, to improve situations and contribute to development. For this reason – and with the aim of becoming financially independent – it has always been important for me to keep working. And, of course, my experience and expertise were sought after. At the same time, though, I've made sure that my workload is manageable for me and doesn't come at the expense of my family life. For example, I've always communicated very clearly that I cannot make meetings

I've managed numerous teams all around the world: from Spain to China, from Turkey to Poland.



**It's hugely enriching for a university to live such diversity.**

before 8:30 am. I only ever wanted to eat breakfast with my daughter; it was an important ritual for us. This rule has been very well accepted everywhere I've worked. It has sometimes been received with a stupid remark. That's just the way it is. But when someone has told me that "working with children just doesn't work", I've thought to myself: "Those are your limits, not mine."

**Would you describe yourself as courageous?**

I've always been the type of person who wouldn't necessarily choose the easiest route. But that's not because I'm hugely courageous; in truth, my comfort zone is relatively small. Instead, I've always felt it was important to broaden my horizons and explore new things. I get bored easily. I need change to keep a feeling of excitement in my life.

**Do you deliberately look for challenges?**

I believe it's important to be able to take enjoyment in everything you do. I often ask myself what motivates me – why I get out of bed every day and enjoy going to work. I've always look for jobs where I think: "I don't know anything about that. I don't quite know how I'm supposed to do it. But it certainly sounds interesting!" (laughs)

**As a young woman, why did you decide to study mechanical engineering at TUM?**

You mean, back in the 90s when there were hardly any women in the field? (laughs) To be honest, I actually wanted to study biochemistry but leaving school with perfect grades seemed like an awful lot of work. So, I choose mechanical engineering at TUM with the intention of specializing in chemical engineering at a later point in time. However, I had such a good time during my undergraduate studies that I simply stayed on the same program.

**You were also a student representative during your time at TUM. How did that come about?**

I had been involved in the student council for mechanical engineering for a while when somebody asked me whether I wanted to put my name forward for the Senate elections. I seemed really exciting to me. As I said earlier: "I'm not sure, I don't know anything about it, but it sounds interesting." So, I put my name forward and was elected. That was at the time when Wolfgang A. Herrmann became the new TUM President. He was an ambitious man but always thoroughly decent. I always appreciated that about him.

**What did you learn during that period?**

How to review colossal mountains of documents very, very quickly and filter out the two or three sentences that actually matter. (laughs). And how to endure seemingly endless meetings. That's something that qualifies me for a management job today. (laughs) I also learned the importance of having a good network. Who do I call if I need certain information? Who can I call for assistance in tricky situations? Who has experience that could help me?

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# Leadership Skills

## for Young Professionals and PhDs

Listen to TUM Alumna and manager Dr. Silke Maurer talking about her career path and gather tips to help you master your first leadership position.

**Thursday, January 11, 2024, 18:00**

[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

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**You gave a fiery speech as the student representative at the Dies Academicus in 1995.**

Really? I can't even remember what exactly it was that I said! (laughs)

**Your criticisms included the lack of exchange across disciplinary boundaries at TUM.**

Well, I think we have to put this into context. Even then, we had a huge range of course options at TUM compared to other universities. That was simply due to the size of TUM and the fact we had so many high-quality professors. Nevertheless, it was also true that we had our electrical engineering lecture from the electrical engineering professor and our physics lecture from our physics professor. There was relatively little connection between the two. And, even back then, it was clear to us that we would be entering a different, increasingly networked world after graduation. We wanted to prepare for that. Today, TUM deals with this much better: the new School-based reform implemented by President Thomas F. Hofmann has set the course for a more extensive, wide-ranging exchange between different subject areas, increasing the interdisciplinarity of education at TUM. I also think it's great that there are more international students at TUM today than in the past. That will help young people to see the bigger picture, also at an early stage in their studies. It's hugely enriching for a university to have such diversity.

**Did you spend time abroad during your studies?**

Unfortunately not. And if there's one thing I regret, it's not spending a semester abroad. Today, I would thoroughly recommend it to every student. You learn to get by in a place where everything is different to back home. It bolsters you for life. And, ultimately, you learn to appreciate what you have at home even more.

### Dr. Silke Maurer

Master's in Mechanical Engineering, 1997

Silke Maurer is Chief Operating Officer and a Member of the Executive Board at Bavarian engine manufacturer MTU Aero Engines. She studied mechanical engineering at TUM in the 1990s, graduating with a Master's degree in 1997. During her time at university, she also served as student representative in the Senate. Her first professional position was at BMW, where she later held various management roles, including spending two years at Husqvarna Motorcycles in Italy. Silke Maurer studied alongside her work to earn her doctorate from Cranfield University in the United Kingdom.

Following her final role in the BMW Group at Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, she joined the BSH Home Appliances Group in February 2017, where she was responsible for dealing with company locations around the world and finally held the position of Chief Operating Officer. She left the company to take up the role of Chief Operating Officer at Webasto. In February 2023, she joined MTU Aero Engines.



TUM Alumnus Uchendu Eugene Chigbu was born in a rural town in Nigeria. Already as a teenager, he was concerned about how rural areas could be developed further and the lives of the local people improved. To learn more about this subject from an international luminary in this field, he went to TUM in Munich – and ended up staying for his master's, a doctorate and to be a postdoctoral researcher during a period of 13 years. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu quickly established an international reputation through his leadership in large-scale development projects. He now applies the knowledge he gained at TUM in Africa in his role as Professor of Land Administration at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

# Professor Chigbu is committed for fair land use in Africa.



**Professor Chigbu, why is Land Management an African concern?**

Actually, it isn't just an African concern. It is everyone's concern. How we can sustainably develop spaces outside of cities – in other words, how we deal with rural areas, how we measure, distribute, advance and preserve them, is as important for Europe and Bavaria as it is for Africa. The significant thing about the situation in many emerging countries such as Africa is that ownership, property and land use rights are often anything but legally binding there. Only about ten percent of land in Africa is formally registered and thus legally protected property. The fact that the remaining ninety percent is not clearly defined in terms of who owns the land and who is allowed to use it gives rise to land conflicts and great uncertainty among the population. There can be no long-term planning or investment. National and international investors buy up large areas of land and often displace the people who live there. Naturally, the indigenous population is particularly affected, but so are marginalized groups in society, women, the elderly, the youth and the sick.

**Have you always been interested in this subject?**

Even as a child and teenager, I was aware that the lack of regulations on land use paves the way for injustice. My mother always complained about in the village. Back in Nigeria, I did a bachelor's in Estate Management, which largely corresponds to a degree in Land Management. After that, I went to England for my master's degree where I explored Business Management. However, I quickly realized that I wanted to return to the roots of my interest.

**Is this how you came to TUM?**

I had set myself the goal of doing a master's degree in Land Management. So, I started to research where best to study this subject. One name kept coming up each time I searched Land Management, and that was Professor Dr. Holger Magel.



AFRICA

TUM in Africa

In 2018, TUM launched an initiative on Africa. In addition to cooperating on individual projects, long-term partnerships are being promoted in the key areas of teaching, research and entrepreneurship, which are supported at TUM by the Africa Network, spanning various departments. The aim is to use local partners, new methods and adapted technologies as examples to promote sustainable development on the continent. A first area of focus is Ghana, where TUM is involved in the University KNUST. To date, there are already a total of 140 projects and exchange agreements between TUM and institutions in 20 African countries. Under the leadership of the Chair of Land Management, for example, the „ADLAND“ consortium is working on the conception and implementation of responsible and smart Land Management.

[www.international.tum.de/en/global/knust](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/knust)

The TUM.Afrika Newsletter offers regular updates. Please subscribe to the newsletter if you are interested: [go.tum.de/027726](http://go.tum.de/027726)



There were students sitting there from many places I had never been to before.

**At that time, he was Full Professor for Land Management at TUM and is considered an internationally renowned luminary in this field.**

As at time, he had established a highly acclaimed Master degree program at TUM that was well known and talked about far beyond the borders of Germany. He was also President of the Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure (International Association of Surveyors) at the time. To cut a long story short: My interest was piqued – along with the curiosity to participate in his Master programme and personally get to know Prof Magel. During this period, he served as my teacher at TUM and my mentor. Everything fell into place. Studying at TUM and understudying Magel clearly shaped the rest of my professional life.

#### **How so?**

When I first walked into the lecture room at TUM, I was totally taken by surprise. I had come from England, where we had always been around thirty to forty people in the class and we learned a lot from literature. At TUM, we were 12 people in class and each one was from a different country. With me there were students from China, Mongolia, Brazil, Cambodia, from Ghana, Thailand, from Jamaica and other places I have never been to before. So, rather than learning only lecturing, we were encouraged to talk to each other and learn from each other. So, I didn't have to read books to find out what the land management situation is like in China, I was able to know it from my Chinese colleague. I got all the information firsthand even before I could read about them. I immediately got a global perspective on everything I learned. Of course, there was intensive theoretical class work done every school day from am until 5 pm, but the entire program was so wonderfully practical – also because of the regular internships and excursions in Bavaria and around Germany.

#### **Did you get out and about a lot?**

Oh, quite a lot, I got to meet about seven different Bavarian mayors during my time at TUM (laughs). They narrated to us directly, the Bavarian rural and urban development practices. Among them was the Mayor of Weyarn, whom we visited and he also visited us in class and explained the conditions and problems he dealt with in his day-to-day work. We went on field trips to individual communities, met several mayors and municipal employees who worked on the ground to address the challenges we had previously discussed in class. They told us about the problems in the field and how they addressed them. It was very hands-on learning. Professor Magel made sure that established guest lecturers were always invited from around the world to teach us in the classroom. Speakers from Great Britain,

from the Netherlands, from Cambodia, from Ghana and many other countries. It was all incredibly exciting and broadened my horizons immensely. Professor Magel is a fantastic networker. He always knew just the right person for each topic.

#### **Did that rub off on you?**

Networking skills are definitely something I picked up at TUM. I closely observed and analyzed my professors, how they led their research groups, how they prepared before and conducted themselves at conferences, how they fostered their networks. When Professor Magel retired, I - spent three years as a postdoc with Professor Dr. Thomas Wunderlich in Engineering Geodesy. Then I worked for Prof Magel's successor, Professor Dr. Walter de Vries until I moved to Namibia. They all were wonderful role models for me – especially when it comes to learning how to manage academic projects.

#### **Do you need this skill today in your role as a professor in Namibia?**

Every day. In my current position, I manage several networks, hold a number of executive positions and have a lot of academic responsibilities. Currently, I am the coordinator of the program Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) in Southern Africa. This program is owned by the African Union (AU) but is supported by the German Government, to strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the AU Agenda on land. In NELGA, I coordinate a network of more than 30

If you  
don't go  
to school,  
you'll be  
like a  
blind man.

universities from all over Southern Africa. It is sometimes difficult and complex to connect them all and reconcile their interests. But during my studies I have practiced putting myself in the position of my counterpart and looking at a problem from their perspective. I find this very helpful.

**Are you still in touch with your TUM classmates from back then?**

I am still very active with them in a WhatsApp group where we exchange ideas and experiences. All of them are working in Land Management all over the world. So, if I want to know how a problem is regulated in another country today, I access first-hand information from them. On top of that, three of my previous students at TUM are now working colleagues at NUST Namibia where I am now, and two of them even work in my department (laughs).

**Has it always been clear to you that you wanted to pursue a career in academia?**

To answer this question, we might have to go back to my childhood. I was born into a large family, the last of eight children. So, I have six older sisters and a brother. We were all loved very much. But since I was the last child, my family was especially interested in me making something of myself and not wasting my life. But I did not give any of them, especially my mother an easy time.

**In what way?**

Unfortunately, I never liked school. I just didn't see the point to it, I didn't like it and I never understood what I was supposed to do there. And so, I had to repeat several classes during my early schooling years. But my family didn't give up on me: they insisted that I continue going to school. I remember my mother, who never went to school herself, kneeling down in front of me one day and begging me to go to school. She said, "Uche (as she calls me), you have to go to school, just like your brother and sisters." And I replied, "But why?" And my mother said, "If you don't go to school, you'll be like a blind man. You will never be able to read and write, and anyone who cannot read and write will never know his way in life." Today, of course, I understand what she meant, but at the time I just couldn't see the point of going to school.

**So how does someone who didn't like going to school become a professor?**

Originally, my interest in Land Management led me to TUM. Then, I realized that, since I could not get into a regular job in Germany due to my poor German skills, I had to take my academic work seriously. In addition, Professor Magel supported international students in his department and kept them on site for research on issues concerning their own countries. When we went over certain things in class, he would often ask me, "Eugene, how would you implement this in Africa?" This question initially bothered me, as I was then thinking of looking for jobs in Germany. But as I matured in my stay with him, I realized it was his way of saying, "you have a responsibility in Africa." So, I embraced it.

**Why?**

I felt that it implied that my knowledge and qualifications were not needed in Germany. At some point, I addressed this with him. He explained to me how important he thought it was for his students and doctoral candidates to return to their home countries to implement what they had learned at his institute. That's why it was so important to him that we had practical learning

and exchanged ideas with each other to gain a holistic perspective. He would say, “You have the power and the knowledge to really make a difference in your home countries. So go and do it.”

**And was he right about that?**

Of course! With my research and publications, I raise awareness in Africa about how land management could be done realistically in Africa. I use my position as lecturer and academic networker to introduce ideas, recommended courses of action, and best practices are spreading through the networks I am strategically building. I now firmly believe that a well-written idea can have a real impact on society and improve people’s lives. One of the land management methods I introduced is now being implemented in municipalities in Namibia and Uganda by the UN-Habitat. Of course, beyond that, my primary role is to train the next generation. When I came to Namibia to my Department, I first implemented the model of TUM research groups there. I want to be a mentor for my students and junior colleagues and give them the knowledge and self-confidence that I learned from TUM and around the world.



**I want to pass on the knowledge and the self-confidence that was given to me at TUM.**

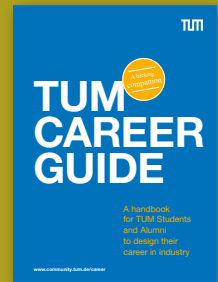
**Prof. Dr. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu**

Master Land Management and Land Tenure 2009,  
Doctorate Land Management 2013

Uchendu Eugene Chigbu graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Estate Management from the Abia State University in Nigeria. In 2005, he completed a Master’s degree in Business and Management in Emerging Markets at the University of Reading in the UK. He then studied a second master’s degree in Land Management and Land Tenure from TUM. In 2013, he added a doctorate in Engineering here. As a research assistant, he worked on several international development projects and was part of the “ADLAND” consortium and TUM’s Africa Initiative. In 2020, Uchendu Eugene Chigbu was appointed Associate Professor of Land Administration at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. Uchendu Eugene Chigbu is co-chair of the International Research Cluster of the Global Land Tool Network (UN-Habitat) and Coordinator of Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (in the Southern African region).

# Globally

**Many TUM Alumni head abroad after their studies**, where they apply their expertise, broaden their horizons, gain new insights and act as ambassadors for German education and engineering. By the same token, many international students who come to TUM decide to stay in Germany after graduation, thereby enriching the local labor market. Both groups receive extensive support from TUM as they pursue their careers. The TUM Career Guide is certainly a worthwhile read for career-related questions. It covers everything you need to know to prepare yourself effectively to find a new job, change career paths or position yourself for new leadership responsibilities. It also features the full inter-



## From Munich to Hong Kong

### Adrian Stromski

Bachelor's in Management & Technology 2015, Master's 2018  
Mentor in the TUM Community  
General Manager at  
Melchers China in Hong Kong



Adrian Stromski received his Bachelor's in Management & Technology in 2015, followed by a Master's degree in 2018. During his Master's program, he completed an internship in Hong Kong. After graduating, he moved back to Hong Kong and initially worked at Kayro Solutions, a corporate consultancy firm. In 2020, he became General Manager at Melchers China.

*"Already during my Master's program, I found myself fascinated by the strong economic growth in Asia and the opportunities that this offered. I actively looked for internships abroad. Lufthansa Cargo offered me an internship in Hong Kong, which fitted well with my specialization in operations and supply chain management. Hong Kong is very international, so there were no real hurdles to stop me finding my bearings. I very quickly made a lot of social contacts, who helped me with every possible issue. My six-month internship in Hong Kong strengthened my resolve to seriously consider launching my career in Asia after graduating."*

# Successful

views with the TUM Alumni featured on these pages. The TUM Career Guide is available free of charge – in print and digital formats – at [www.community.tum.de/career-guide](http://www.community.tum.de/career-guide).

TUM Students and Alumni can also access support from the TUM Community at any time, with a host of alumni sharing their professional experiences in webinars and supporting students as mentors.

## Careers program

TUM provides extensive support with job hunting, applications and first career steps through its comprehensive careers program – available free of charge to students and alumni. [www.community.tum.de/en/career](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career)

## TUM Community

Just about every country on the planet has a group in the TUM Community, bringing together alumni who know the country well or currently reside there.

[www.community.tum.de/en/forum](http://www.community.tum.de/en/forum)

## Global Minds

The Global Minds series takes place every semester at TUM. These events provide tips and advice on applying for jobs, securing internships and working in different countries such as the USA/UK, Chile, Brazil, Japan and many more. [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## TUM Mentoring

In the TUM Mentoring program, alumni support current students – including as they look to take their first steps in a foreign labor market.

[www.community.tum.de/en/mentoring](http://www.community.tum.de/en/mentoring)

## From Madrid to Munich

Sofía Díaz Esteban graduated with a Bachelor's in Physics and Astrophysics in Madrid in 2018. She completed her Master's in Applied and Engineering Physics at TUM in 2021. Following a stint as a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, she accepted a position at H&Z Management Consulting in Munich, where she is now an Aerospace Consultant working in the field of strategy and performance.

*"When I moved from Madrid to Munich to study physics at TUM, I knew that I wanted to start my professional career here. I saw first hand the incredible job opportunities that Munich offers for TUM students, both in the private sector and in the institutional sphere. A degree from TUM is a widely acknowledged sign of quality. The TUM Community is vast, so it's very likely that one of its members will be your future employer – as was the case for me. In my current consultancy work, I am constantly confronted with a range of different projects, which means I can always stay up to date with best practices in the industry."*



### Sofía Díaz Esteban

Master's in Physics 2021  
Aerospace Consultant  
at H&Z Management Consulting  
in Munich



# His company transformed microwelding around the world.

In his early 20s, Farhad Farassat left his native Iran and headed for Munich. He wanted to study mechanical engineering at TUM but hardly spoke any German. So, he enrolled at a language school, brought his language skills up to scratch in next to no time, and the technical jargon involved in studying mechanical engineering no longer posed a problem. After leaving TUM with two degrees in his pocket, Farhad Farassat immediately established his own company, which soon became the market leader for microwelding equipment used in chip manufacturing. Today, around 40 years later, he is using the proceeds from the sale of his company to support students at TUM through the Deutschlandstipendium. Farassat also serves as a student advisor and draws on his experience to assist the TUM University Council with decisions affecting the future of the university.

# Today, Dr. Farassat supports students at TUM.

We met the generous benefactor and Honorary Senator along with current TUM student Paula Ruhwandl. She currently holds a Deutschlandstipendium scholarship financed by Farhad Farassat.

**Dr. Farassat, Ms. Ruhwandl, have you met before?**

*Paula Ruhwandl:* Yes, I was lucky enough to meet Dr. Farassat at the annual celebration for the Deutschlandstipendium. I got on very well with him and his wife right away.

*Farhad Farassat:* We were impressed with Paula from the outset. She's a talented young woman with wide-ranging interests and talents. In addition to her studies, she's also a coach at her rowing club. And you have a job as well, don't you?

*Ruhwandl:* That's right. I'm currently a working student in the semiconductor industry. I learn a great deal there. At the same time, I'm pleased that the Deutschlandstipendium means I don't have to rely on working alongside my studies to get by. It's important to me to be able to stand on my own two feet and I hugely enjoy my volunteering activities. Rowing provides me with good balance and also presents a challenge. As a coach, I have to lead and motivate my team.

*Farassat:* That's exactly what we wanted to achieve with our funding: for young people to be able to pursue their interests and passions, furthering their skills in different ways, including away from their studies. Paula isn't our only scholarship holder – in fact, we've meanwhile funded around 90 scholarships at TUM.

**That's not to mention your support for the TUM University Foundation, to which you have also made a donation. Why is this engagement so important to you?**

*Farassat:* I received a high-quality, well-founded education at TUM. Applying what I learned here, I was able to establish a company that achieved considerable success around the world. I think it's only right that, following this success, I give something back. I still feel very closely affiliated with TUM.

**You took your school-leaving examinations in Iran and attended a preparatory college. Your goals was the come to Germany and study mechanical engineering. Why?**

*Farassat:* I had wanted to all my life. Even as a child, I was a very talented mechanic. For instance, I built little carts, which you could propel using foot pedals. And bicycles, too – they were made from wood, of course, and didn't work. (laughs) But I had the ambition to create something. I always wanted to figure out how things work, so whenever a mechanical device broke, I would unscrew it straight away to see if I could repair it. From a very early age, I was endlessly fascinated by mechanics. So, it was obvious to me that I wanted to learn more about it.

*Ruhwandl:* And so why did you move to Germany?

*Farassat:* In Iran, we were always told that German mechanics is the best in the world. Obviously, I wanted to see if it was true! (laughs)

*Ruhwandl:* My father's a German engineer, so he'd probably agree with that assessment! (laughs) But did you find that to be the case during your time at university?

Applying what I learned here, I was able to establish a company that achieved considerable success around the world.





Dr. Farhad Farassat is more than a sponsor to Paula Ruhwandl – he is also her mentor.



*Farassat:* I learned a great deal at TUM. My studies certainly laid the foundations for my subsequent career. From my fifth semester onwards, I also worked as a design engineer to finance my studies. I was working on real machines and learned a lot. It was also very taxing, though. On weeknights, I would sometimes sleep for as little as three or four hours. I drove to my lectures at the university and then headed to my job. I studied at night and then did it all again the next day.

*Ruhwandl:* Whew, that really does sound like a heavy workload. My studies also ask a lot of me but, for the moment, I'm able to balance everything very well and also pursue other interests. Many I'm just not as ambitious as you were. (laughs)

*Farassat:* Even when I was a young boy, I always set very firm goals for myself. And, if I resolved to do something, I usually succeeded. I finished my program in eight semesters and then moved onto a second degree at TUM, this time in nuclear engineering. When exactly did you decide to study here?

*Ruhwandl:* My father also studied at TUM – he's a proud alumnus. I had always enjoyed taking part in "Mädchen machen Technik" – a program TUM hosts for girls during the school holidays. It allows them to work on projects for several days, perhaps as a researcher or an engineer, and design and develop something. It fueled a desire within me to find a job as an engineer. During my

## I think it's only right that, following this success, I give something back.

Master's program, I selected the same specialization as my father: embedded systems. It was more a coincidence, though – it just happened to be what I enjoy most.

### **Dr. Farassat, you founded your own company relatively soon after graduation. How did that come about?**

*Farassat:* First of all, I never wanted to work for one of the big companies. That was clear to me from the outset.

*Ruhwandl:* Why not?

*Farassat:* As an engineer, the larger the company, the less influence you have on the overall product as a whole, the machine as a whole. In very large companies, the few engineers they have are so specialized that they often only develop small components, perhaps two screws for a specific machine. For me, though, it was always very important to be able to see and work on the whole product.

*Ruhwandl:* What field was your company in?

*Farassat:* We specialized in microwelding technology. It's used in the manufacturing of computer chips, for example – which you deal with in your working student position. By chance, I had visited a company that was active in the microwelding field. Its equipment was not computer-assisted at that time, so everything had to be operated manually. So, you would have a woman sitting there welding together individual wires that were only 25 µm thick. It wasn't really possible to see it with the naked eye: even if you were fully concentrated, the welding was still very imprecise. It was clear to me that we needed to develop something to automate the process. That's why I came together with my business partners and built the world's first fully automatic microwelding device.

*Ruhwandl:* Just like that?

*Farassat:* Nothing's ever as easy as it sounds! (laughs) But we knew that, together, we could find a solution. And we were absolutely determined to do just that. So, we pooled our expertise, tried out a lot of different things, and learned a little more with every model we made. I was driven by my curiosity – and the wealth of knowledge I had acquired at TUM certainly helped, too. And, in the end, the project was a success.

### **In the industry, this process is known as bonding – which led to the press giving you the nickname “Mr. Bond”.**

*Farassat:* That's right! (laughs) But that was only in 1993, after I had fully purchased the company and its site in Ottobrunn, near Munich, and become Managing Director. I know that, as a small company, our only chance to succeed was to provide the best technology in the world. And I was right! In the first year alone, the company recorded sales of ten million Deutschmarks, with one million of profit. Our customers included high-profile names like Siemens, Philips and Motorola. We became very well known. In addition to my role as Managing Director, I also established our subsidiaries in the USA, Singapore and China. At the same time, building a positive company culture was vital for me.

*Ruhwandl:* How big was your company?

*Farassat:* When things were at their best, we had around 150 employees. I wouldn't be where I am today without them. My company was always like a family to me. It was important to me that my employees were happy and well. I always felt that a first-rate company culture was crucial. So, when I came into work in the morning, I would greet the employees personally before anything else. That way, I could see for myself if someone wasn't doing well or needed help.

*Ruhwandl:* That's really impressive. I think we need more role models like that.

*Farassat:* In 2001, I was named Entrepreneur of the Year in Germany. I was the first foreigner to win this title in Germany's industrial segment. To this day, I'm very proud of this.

### **In 2017, you stepped back from your work activities and sold your company.**

*Farassat:* I knew that I wanted to donate 20% of the sale price to TUM. What I learned here laid the foundations for my professional success, my life's work. In the first year after the sale, I sponsored 33 Deutschlandstipendium scholarships and donated a considerable sum to the TUM University Foundation. Little by little, I got involved in other projects at TUM.

*Ruhwandl:* Including student projects?

*Farassat:* Yes, I'm really excited to support the TUM Autonomous Motorsport team, for example. Its dedicated students and doctoral candidates are developing an AI-controlled race car capable of reaching top speeds up to 270 km/h. I think it's sensational. Sitting down with young people, advising them on their project and sharing my opinions and experiences with them on certain issues is something I find hugely enjoyable. The students working on the project are motivated and very hardworking. It's wonderful to see.

**And, since 2018, you have served in a voluntary capacity on the TUM University Council.**

*Farassat:* I also enjoy that a lot. TUM never stands still. It keeps me young and active. (laughs) There are a whole host of exciting projects and excellent, highly motivated students. As a benefactor, I've already met a number of them – including Paula, with whom I get on very well.

*Ruhwandl:* Not only does Dr. Farassat support me financially through the Deutschlandstipendium, he also stands at my side as my mentor. It's heartening. I know that I can contact him at any time with questions about my studies or my career choices. I'm sure I'll benefit a great deal from his wide-ranging life and professional experience in the future.

## TUM Honorary Senator Dr. Farhad Farassat

Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1974,  
Nuclear Engineering 1977

Farhad Farassat moved from Iran to Munich in his early 20s and studied mechanical engineering and nuclear engineering at TUM. He received Master's degrees in both subjects and, shortly after graduating, joined forces with two other partners to found a company specializing in microwelding technology for computer chips. In 1992, Farhad Farassat acquired the company in a management buy-out together with his classmate Said Kazemi and became head of the company. In 1997, the TUM Alumnus received his doctorate from TU Berlin on the topic of bonding process controls. In 2001, he was named Entrepreneur of the Year by German publication Manager Magazin. In 2016, he sold the company and resolved to donate 20% of the proceeds to TUM – with a portion donated to the University Foundation and the rest set aside to finance numerous Deutschlandstipendium scholarships. Dr. Farassat remains active at TUM to this day, contributing to the TUM University Council and advising a host of student projects. In 2021, he was named an Honorary Senator of TUM in recognition of his services.

## TUM Deutschlandstipendium holder Paula Ruhwandl

Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 2022

Paula Ruhwandl was born and raised in Munich. She has already completed her Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and is specializing further in her Master's studies. She is gaining experience as a working student at Infineon and is a volunteer coach at her rowing club. Currently, she holds a Deutschlandstipendium funded by Dr. Farhad Farassat.



# Ambassador Chong Hock Lee wants to foster collaboration between talented minds – worldwide.

In the 1990s, Chong Hock Lee from Singapore studied mechanical engineering at TUM. Despite completing a number of internships in the field, his post-university career path did not lead him into the automotive industry but into the world of politics. He applied his skills at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore for many years and was also involved in dealing with international crises. At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, he was responsible for evacuating Singaporean nationals from overseas and reuniting families separated by lockdowns. In August 2023, Chong Hock Lee became Singapore's ambassador to Germany, with his position confirmed by German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in a ceremony at Bellevue Palace. From his new office in Berlin, he strives to facilitate collaboration between scientists and researchers from Germany and Singapore on the challenges of the future.





In late August, Chong Hock Lee met Germany's Federal President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at Bellevue Palace to receive his accreditation as a foreign ambassador.

**Mr. Lee, you recently met Germany's Federal President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at Bellevue Palace. How did you find it?**

Naturally, it was a very special moment in my career. It was very ceremonial; a stately act. It made me even more aware of the significance of the duties I was taking on. I felt very honored indeed. Bellevue Palace is an impressive place and I hold Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in high regard, having known him for many years. I'm delighted to be back in Germany.

**You studied mechanical engineering at TUM in the 1990s. How did that come about?**

My father worked for a German company in Singapore for 18 years. That isn't particularly unusual, because many German companies have an office in Singapore and there are strong economic ties between our two countries. Due to my father's work, Germany was a constant presence in our family – as a topic of discussion over dinner, for instance. However, it was thanks to a scholarship from the Singaporean government that I came to study in Germany.

**How exactly?**

For many years now, Singapore has actively pursued a policy of sending young talents to study overseas. The students receive scholarships that enable them to study abroad in various non English speaking countries including Germany,

France and Japan. The aim is for the students to learn about and understand the cultures, people and systems in these countries. The benefit to Singapore is that, when these students return home, they bring these insights back with them. So, I decided to move to Germany. Even then, TUM had an excellent reputation, a long list of Nobel Prize laureates, top companies, and, of course, a beautiful city close by the mountains. It was an easy decision for me! (laughs)

**Your mechanical engineering lectures were in German. How were your German language skills?**

I completed an eight-month German course in Cologne and then took the German language examination for university admission, which was a precondition of starting my studies at TUM. It was also needed for the internship I completed at BMW, including at its foundry in Landshut. So, I already had some German language skills. Nevertheless, the first lecture was very sobering. I remember that, after half an hour, I turned to the classmate beside me and whispered: "I can only understand about 30% of what the professor's saying." He replied: "Don't worry. I come from Swabia and I don't understand it either. He's speaking Bavarian." So, I had to battle through that! (laughs) But I had a fantastic time at TUM.

**What helped you to persevere through university studies abroad?**

I think it was the environment that motivated me. I made friends who supported me a great deal and were always there to help me. After a while, I stopped noticing whether something was said in German or English. I was so immersed in the topic, curious about the subject matter and riveted by our joint efforts to solve our tasks. The surroundings and ethos at TUM were also highly conducive to learning. Students are expected to take a lot of responsibility for their learning.

**What do you mean by that?**

It's certainly a feature of the university system in Germany and in Europe, which has a very liberal organizational structure. Students can – and must – make a lot of decisions for themselves. They have to search for courses, choose their specialties, draw up schedules. International students sometimes find this difficult because they're used to things being done differently. But it's an important lesson: if we want to achieve something in life, we have to take control of it ourselves.

**After graduating, you headed back to Singapore.**

**Why?**

On the one hand, I had to finish my 2.5-year military service. On the other hand, my scholarship required me to work for the government for a few years. However, this work was so varied and gave me so much in terms of value, that I was happy to stick with it. (laughs) Ultimately, it gave me the opportunity to study for another Master's degree. I opted for political science and chose to study at Columbia University in the USA. I wanted to have a different experience to what I had in Europe.

**And did it change your perspective?**

Yes, in two respects. For one thing, the culture in the USA is very different to the culture in Singapore or Europe. Americans aren't afraid to make mistakes or to fail. They fall down, get back up, fall down again, get back up again, and so on. It's not a problem for them. They're very entrepreneurial and can market themselves very well. "Made in Germany" is a strong brand – but Germans can certainly take a page out of the Americans' book when it comes to self-promotion. (laughs) Studying politics also broadened my horizons.

**In what way?**

Engineers are trained to solve problems. When we see a problem, we want to solve it right away. By studying politics and working as a diplomat, I learned and accepted that some problems can't be solved – or at least, perhaps not right away – or that you might not be the best person to offer the solution. It takes patience and foresight to accept that.

**You worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for many years. What did you enjoy most about your work there?**

It is a diverse, very special job. It never knew exactly what would happen in the course of a day. New developments were always cropping up and I enjoyed the challenges I had to face every day. At the same time, I was able to give people practical assistance. From 2016 to 2020, I was Director-General of the Consular Directorate. There were various crises in which we had to coordinate teams and send them overseas to support our nationals.

**Can you give us an example?**

The Covid pandemic broke out in January 2020. Together with my team, I had to organize evacuation flights to Wuhan and safely bring families living there back to Singapore.

## Every European student should spend some time in China, India, Japan or Southeast Asia.

It wasn't as easy as it sounds, though. None of us knew how to deal with the virus or what was really going on in Wuhan. I had to find colleagues to volunteer for the first flight to Wuhan, which was "ground zero" so to speak. I was heartened to see colleagues stepping up to the challenge. Some time later, I became Director-General of the Europe Directorate and helped with the task of reuniting families separated by the pandemic. It was a wonderful assignment because I saw how happy we made people.

### **What helped you to handle this challenging situation?**

Something else I learned in Germany – but perhaps not in the way you think. (laughs) I remember sitting in a car with some of my German friends. We set off and noticed that not all the doors were closed properly. In Singapore, we would have discussed where the problem might be, then stopped the car to see which door was causing the issue. But what did my German friends do? They each opened the door next to them very quickly, while the car was still moving, and then closed them again. It solved the problem within a few seconds. Each of my friends acted automatically, without having to agree first on how to proceed. It got me thinking: in dicey situations, you just have to act rather than work through things step by step. You don't always have the luxury of being able to sit down and analyze a problem. Sometimes, you just have to act and improvise as you go, continuously adapting your approach to solve a problem as best you can.

### **To what extent are you also applying your engineering expertise in your everyday work?**

I specialized in energy and power plants during my time at TUM. It wasn't such a hot topic back then – but the energy crisis has made it more important today. Consequently, the topic crops up time and again in my everyday work. We urgently need technical solutions in terms of climate change and to address the energy crisis. Achieving this will require us to work together – around the world.

### **What do you mean by that?**

Many problems concern us all as a global community. We need innovations that help us to tackle these problems – and for this we need the brightest minds from around the world. We must give our most talented people the opportunity to cooperate productively across national boundaries. That's one of the most important aims of science diplomacy and a significant goal I've set myself as





At the alumni meet-up in Singapore, TUM President Thomas F. Hofmann presented Singapore's new ambassador to Germany, Chong Hock Lee, with a TUM pin as a symbol of his affiliation to the university community. Dr. Norbert Riedel, the German ambassador to Singapore, is standing between the two men.

an ambassador. I want to promote scientific cooperation between our countries. This collaboration should start at an early point in time, ideally with university students. In this context, TUM made an excellent decision by opening an international campus in Singapore in 2002. Its TUM CREATE platform has achieved significant research successes, with researchers from Singapore and TUM cooperating on vital future topics such as electromobility and food research. I visited TUM Asia recently and attended a meet-up for alumni. It's impressive to see what TUM, its professors and, of course, its students are doing there. I'm very proud of my alma mater.

**Would you like to see more exchange between students in general?**

From my point of view, it's essential that German students gain experience of life outside Germany. Each of them should spend some time in China, India, Japan or South-east Asia. At the same time, students from Asia should move to the West, whether to Europe or the USA. That will enrich learning and collaboration in science so that, together, we can try to develop solutions for the future. Everyone should gain experience of life abroad in their youth. There's so much to gain from it.

### Chong Hock Lee

Master's in Mechanical Engineering, 2001

Chong Hock Lee moved to Munich in 1996 to study mechanical engineering at TUM. In 2001, he received his Master's degree and returned to his native Singapore, where he worked for the government. Over the years, he held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also brought his knowledge to bear working in the Office of the Prime Minister. He furthered his expertise by studying for a Master's degree in Political Science, which he received from Columbia University in New York, USA. He went on to become Deputy Chief of Mission at Singapore's embassy in Thailand, Director-General of the Consular Directorate and Director-General for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Singapore. In August 2023, he became Singapore's ambassador to Germany and is now based in Berlin.

## Adventures Abroad

In recent decades, many TUM Alumni have seized the opportunity of spending time abroad during their studies. Whether they studied in Brazil, conducted research in Paraguay or worked in Japan, they returned after unique experiences that advanced their academic progress, sparked their professional curiosity or, in some cases, turned their entire life upside down. We've selected some stories and snapshots from our students' time abroad over the last 50 years.

**Out** of your  
comfort zone  
and into  
the unknown

## Gaining Experience in Japan and Beyond

**An adventure in the Land of the Rising Sun: during his studies, Michael Bartels (Master's in Architecture, 2006) was fortunate enough to head to the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan through the Young Scientist Exchange Program. Japanese language courses at the TUM Language Center provided ideal preparation for his year abroad.**

Michael Bartels' time abroad was a success in every respect. In addition to studying in Tokyo, his language skills enabled him to gain initial professional experience. When his time studying in Japan came to an end, he decided to travel back to Germany by land. *"I wanted to experience the changing landscapes, peoples and cultures rather than jetting home in 14 hours,"* says Bartels. He sailed from Japan to China and then traveled on through China, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine and Slovakia on his journey back to Germany. After graduation, Michael Bartels was keen to work in an international environment. Brainlab, a Munich-based firm founded by TUM Alumnus Stefan Vilsmeier, ticked this box by offering him a job in its Planning department, and later made him Management Assistant. However, Bartel still had itchy feet, so he headed to Japan on a DAAD program for an additional two years. He furthered his language skills at the Tokyo School of Japanese Language, and gained experienced working abroad at Brainlab's Japanese office. In 2016, the TUM Alumnus returned to Munich, where is currently working as a Strategic Pricing Manager.

Michael Bartel's overland journey from Japan to Munich led him through Mongolia.

2004



## Doctoral Study at Oxford

**A unique opportunity: in 2020, TUM Alumna Nan-Hua Nadja Yang (Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering, 2020) was awarded a coveted Rhodes Scholarship – one of the oldest and most prestigious international scholarships in the world. Only two students per year from Germany receive the scholarship.**

Nadja Yang used the scholarship to study for a doctorate in systems engineering at the University of Oxford. The experiences she had gained while studying at TUM were an important factor in her scholarship application being selected. By spending semesters abroad in China, Brazil and at sea, she had already gained international research experience. During her time at TUM, her activities included establishing the Environmental Department in Garching – part of the TUM Student Representation body – which motivated her to continue to work towards a sustainable future.

Nadja Yang standing in front of the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford. This iconic building houses two university lecture halls.

2020



## Studying for a Master's in Brazil

**A life-long, heartfelt connection: Christian Marian (Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering 2016, Master's 2019) has a deep love of Latin America, inspired by his various spells abroad as a student.**

It started when Christian Marian completed his pre-study internship before his mechanical engineering program in Colombia. Not only did he acquire crucial, fundamental knowledge for his upcoming studies, for example of milling and grinding, but he also fell in love with Latin America. During his Master's studies at TUM, he decided to return to the region and enrolled on the double degree program with the Universidade de São Paulo (USP).

*"I completed half my Master's program in Munich and the other half in Brazil. While there, I experienced a unique culture with wonderful, affectionate people. After two years, I returned from Brazil – not just with fluent Portuguese but with my partner, too."*

Now, several years on, the TUM Alumnus is Project Manager at the Association for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies (VDE), where he is responsible for international standardization and relationships with Germany's key partner countries in the field of electrical engineering. In 2023, he was sent to Brazil to represent the organization at the German-Brazilian Economic Meeting (DBWT).

Christian Marian with his classmates in front of the Iguazu Falls.

2016



## Research Contacts in California

**Contact with renowned researchers: Adriana Zaragoza (Master's in Research on Teaching and Learning 2016) achieved exactly that during her stay in California.**

Adriana Zaragoza graduated in teacher training at the Friedl Schöller Endowed Chair for Educational Psychology at TUM. She completed a two-month research stay at the University of California in Irvine. *"During my stay in the USA, I was able to discuss my research topic with renowned specialists, such as Rossella Santagata of the University of California in Irvine and James Hiebert of the University of Delaware. I gathered valuable feedback and recommendations that moved my dissertation forward,"* she recalls.

In addition, she enjoyed cultural and sporting experiences, such as surfing under the Californian sun. After gaining her doctorate, she hopes to continue her work in the education sector from her new home in South Tyrol, applying the insights from her studies and doctoral thesis in practice.

## A Semester Studying in Australia

**An opportunity to try new things: Helena Steurer (Master's in Consumer Science 2021) spent six months on the other side of the world during her Master's program.**

With TUMexchange, Steurer headed to the University of Wollongong. She particularly remembers the strong practical links in the teaching. *"Applying what we were learning was a key focus. Although that made the course more challenging, the learning effects were long-lasting."* She was also impressed by the strong sense of community among the students, which was strengthened by living together on campus. *"That period resulted in close friendships that endure to this day."* In fact, Steurer's semester abroad set the course for her current career path. In Australia, she seized the chance to try new things. *"I took my first courses in programming and big data analytics. After that, it was clear to me that I wanted my career to go in that direction."* Her semester studying abroad continues to shape her life to this day: *"Not only did it inspire my choice of career, it also made it far easier for me to take my first steps in professional life."*

## Internship in Greece

**A very different working culture to Germany: TUM Alumnus Helmut Hackstein (Master's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1975) studied at TUM in the 1970s. His time at university included a three-month internship in Greece, at the country's national telephone company.**

*"It was a wonderful, exciting time,"* recalls Helmut Hackstein. Although he specialized in data processing in his studies, the insights into a telephone company broadened his professional horizons. *"In fact, I spent most of my professional life after that working more in telecommunications rather than data processing,"* he says. *"However, that was also due to the advent of microcomputers in communication technology."* Despite his work commitments, Helmut Hackstein also had enough time to get to know Athens. *"My working day ended around lunchtime, at 1:30 pm. That left plenty of time to explore the city."*

In his final role before retirement, the TUM Alumnus worked as a safety engineer at Versatel. Today, Helmut Hackstein is an active member of the TUM Community in Stuttgart.

1973

2020

Adriana Zaragoza surfing in California.



At a beach in Western Australia, Helena Steurer encountered numerous wallabies that would mingle with the bathers in the afternoons, searching for sustenance.



2019

During his internship, Helmut Hackstein also enjoyed a week's holiday, which he spent seeing the sights in Athens with his wife.



## Start-up Atmosphere in Chile

Discovering an entrepreneurial spirit in Chile: during his Master's, Johannes Thanner (Bachelor's in Management & Technology 2017, Master's 2020) had the opportunity to study at the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María in Valparaíso, Chile, with support from TUM.

The university in Valparaíso is right on the seafront and looks like a grand palace. "It reminded me of Hogwarts," recalls Johannes Thanner. There was a great deal to explore and stunning natural monuments to discover. However, Thanner was also taken with the culture of the Latin American country. "The people are very outgoing and friendly. The students are highly creative and entrepreneurial: for example, they sell all kinds of things in the foyer, including home-made cakes and jewelry."

Having been inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit, Thanner returned to Germany and completed his Master's degree before immediately teaming up with a classmate to launch a digital health start-up.

## Studying in Colombia

A huge self-confidence boost: that's what Aileen Wolf (Bachelor's in Physics 2013, Master's 2017) took back from her time overseas. During her Master's program, she spent seven months at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá.

"I traveled a lot during my time there, both with the university and on my own," says Aileen Wolf. In Colombia, she learned to handle life in a vast Latin American city. "The challenges ranged from the chaotic bus system to finding an apartment," the TUM Alumna remembers. "Speaking Spanish every day took my language skills to the next level."

Even today, Aileen Wolf is still benefiting from her time abroad: "The seven months there and all the traveling provided a real boost for my independence and my self-confidence. It was interesting to see the type of person I can be when I'm traveling abroad and how open I can be to meeting new people."

## Internship and a Term Paper in South Africa

Setting off to South Africa in the mid-1990s: TUM Alumnus Alexander Müller (Master's in Mechanical Engineering, 1998) embarked on this adventure. During his studies, he headed to East London for an internship at a German automotive factory.

Shortly after the end of apartheid, Alexander Müller traveled to a country in turmoil: "Everyone was in uproar: there was a crazy degree of societal flux. It left a lasting impression on me. And, of course, the natural environment and the fauna were sensational." During his internship, he and two other engineers oversaw a consultancy project in the field of truck assembly. He enjoyed it so much that, after completing his internship, he spent a further three months in South Africa and wrote his term paper there. Alexander Müller has continued to pursue a career in the automotive industry and, after his Master's degree, accepted a position at Audi – where he remains to this day. "My time in South Africa taught me that the direct, German style of doing things doesn't always lead to success. It's important to win people over individually. I still apply this experience to good effect today."

2015

Johannes Thanner with friends on a trip to Torres del Paine in Patagonia.



2019

Aileen Wolf on a trip to the 330-square-kilometer Tatacoa Desert, near the city of Neiva.



Alexander Müller standing in front of Table Mountain, Cape Town.



1996

## Cultural Experiences in Kurdistan

**Excursions to exotic countries: Prof. Johann Plank (Doctorate in Chemistry, 1980) studied at TUM in the 1970s. Based on his interest in other cultures and Arabic science in the Middle Ages, he undertook numerous trips during his studies, including to Sudan, Iraq, Kurdistan and Yemen.**

Traveling has carried special significance for Johann Plank throughout his career. *“Even today, I still travel a lot, including a recent trip to the Chemistry Olympiad in Uzbekistan,”* he says. *“International exchange has taught me that, while a lot of things in Germany aren’t bad, we can still learn a lot from other cultures and countries.”* After graduating, Plank worked in industry for many years before being appointed to the Chair of Construction Chemistry at TUM in 2001. From 2002 to 2013, he was active as Director of the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry at TUM.

Plank’s experiences during his time as a student also motivated him to build an excellent international network throughout his career. He has served as a guest professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, been made an honorary professor by Jinan University in China and also maintains close relationships with Arab countries.

Following his retirement, Prof. Planck was named a TUM Emeritus of Excellence by the TUM President.

Prof. Johann Plank in Kurdistan.



1976

## Soil Research in Mexico

**Digging the dirt with international experts: Laurin Reim (Bachelor’s in Geosciences 2012, Master’s in 2016) is currently studying for a Master’s in Engineering Ecology at TUM. With support from TUM, he completed a semester abroad in Mexico City at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.**

While there, he was fortunate enough to be able to take part in a workshop on soil classification with 35 international experts. *“I have a keen interest in soil and engaged with the topic of ecosystem management at length in my studies. It was particularly enjoyable to be able to work together with a network of leading international scientists,”* says Reim. Consequently, Laurin Reim returned from his semester abroad with a wealth of specialist knowledge. However, his time abroad also taught him the importance of the social component in science. *“We had to discuss the results of soil sampling as a team from ten different countries and classify the samples into a system. The ability to work in a team and remain open to other perspectives and approaches was essential.”*

Reim hopes that, after his studies, he will be able to devote himself to further soil sampling projects. He is particularly interested in samples from Mexico related to Mayan archaeological sites.

Laurin Reim (second left) took part in an international soil classification workshop during his time abroad in Mexico. His group’s research included investigating soil in the Sierra Gorda near Pinal de Amoles.



2022

“

## Expanding Horizons: Why International Experience is Essential

“As Vice President for International Alliances and Alumni, it’s important for me that students and researchers at our university can access excellent opportunities to go abroad and expand their knowledge. I myself spend several years working at Stanford University in California and experienced how this intensive cooperation took my work to the next level. I had the opportunity to collaborate with international experts in my field of research. I also grew as a person, because I found living in another culture and another environment very challenging. I constantly had to adapt to new situations, respond with flexibility, but also plan more deliberately. The openness and tolerance I learned there has shaped me as a scientist and as a manager, in how I lead my teams. That’s why, as Vice President, it’s a priority for me to promote international cooperation and global exchange at our university. We want to connect our students to the world in order to broaden their horizons and help them return home stronger, with an open mind and having benefited from intercultural education.”



**Prof. Dr. Juliane Winkelmann**  
Senior Vice President  
for International Alliances and Alumni

Prof. Juliane Winkelmann is Senior Vice President for International Alliances and Alumni at TUM. In this role, she fosters and structures TUM’s international network and initiates partnerships around the world. Her career in medicine, specifically in neurology and human genetics, has included stays spanning several years at renowned institutions overseas, including the Stanford Center for Sleep Science and Medicine in California, USA.

”

# Heading abroad with TUM

Offering students wide-ranging opportunities to gain experience and make contacts abroad is a key priority for TUM. From studying in Europe through Erasmus+ to seeing the world with TUMexchange and seizing the benefits of two universities through the double degree program, TUM has systematically upgraded its offering in recent years and now provides numerous routes to time abroad.

For more information, visit: [www.international.tum.de/en/global/going-abroad](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/going-abroad)





Dr. Schoenenwald  
qualifies as an  
astronaut thanks  
to her international  
experience.

TUM Alumna Dr. Amelie Schoenenwald could become the first female German astronaut in space. In November 2022, she was admitted to the European Space Association (ESA) reserve pool, which means she is on the waiting list for a journey into space. The ESA selection criteria are stringent, and the selection process protracted. Schoenenwald had to win through against more than 22,500 other applicants to secure her place. She was able to refer to a remarkable academic and professional career in her application. She holds a Bachelor's degree, three Master's degrees, an MBA and a doctorate – and also speaks seven languages. Her wide-ranging international research and professional experience qualified her for a potential job in space.

**She could  
soon be  
soaring into  
space.**

**Dr. Schoenenwald, what does it mean to you to be part of the ESA reserve pool?**

It might sound corny but I'm one step closer to my dream of the coolest job in the world. As a child, I loved stories about researchers and adventurers like Alexander von Humboldt, Ernest Shackleton and James Cook. Films about outer space were obviously at the top of my list of favorites. I was obsessed with the Star Wars saga. These stories stirred a desire within me to become a scientist, explore the unknown and embark on incredible adventures.

**To date, no German woman has made it into space. You could be the first.**

Yes, isn't it exciting? (laughs) It would be a tremendous honor for me to work for Europe and Germany as a scientist and astronaut in space. For now, though, I have to stay patient. The ESA recruited two teams in November: one team who started their astronaut training in April 2023 and, for the first time, a reserve team, which includes me.

**What does being part of the reserve team mean?**

The reserve team is made up of people who have the qualifications and meet the requirements to become an astronaut but have not yet started their active astronaut training. The ESA astronaut reserve is a sort of talent pool that the ESA can dip into when they're planning further space missions or need additional astronauts. It could be missions to the International Space Station or other exciting space projects as well.

**The ISS usually has six crew members who come from six different countries and have to live and work together at very close quarters for several months.**

**How has your daily routine changed since November?**

In truth, everything has stayed exactly as it was for me – and yet, everything is different! (laughs) I still have the same job, working as a specialist project lead in the field of rare immunological diseases. In addition, I have a consultancy contract with the ESA. I also have to attend numerous courses to prepare me to conduct scientific experiments in various disciplines in space and deal with a zero-gravity environment. And, once per year, I have to demonstrate my medical fitness. Furthermore, in my role as an ESA reserve astronaut, I have certain public duties, such as attending events and taking part in panel discussions. I'm very happy to speak with youngsters of all ages about my life and career path to date – and why I'm desperate to become an astronaut. That's important to me: we mustn't forget to dream, especially when we're young. My hope is that I can give other people the inspiration they need to knuckle down and make their dreams a reality.

**Have you always had such faith in yourself?**

I always thought it was important to do things that excite me and that I absolutely want to learn about. I was fascinated by chemistry and biology at school; I was desperate to find out more about how biological processes work and how we can use this knowledge for the good of humanity. That's why I chose to study biotechnology at TUM and I really learned an incredible amount here. I'm enthusiastic about a lot of different pursuits in my free time: I go spelunking, take part in jungle expeditions and also enjoy scuba diving and sailing. I also recently climbed Mont Blanc. I just love being outdoors in nature on our beautiful planet, though I'm also interested in other things. I'm a passionate fan of Donald Duck comics and sometimes make my own raspberry wine or strum away on my guitar. You might say that I can't make my mind up – or maybe I just have wide-ranging interests. (laughs) All these things added together might even have given me a slight advantage in the ESA application. Even I was surprised by how well everything suddenly came together.

**You grew up in a small town in Lower Bavaria.**

**How did you find suddenly being pushed into the spotlight after being nominated by the ESA?**

It's pretty strange; it happened quite suddenly, too. It was only a few days before the Ministerial Meeting in Paris that we were told we would be part of the ESA astronaut class of 2022, so we had to organize our travel plans right away. We only found out shortly beforehand which of us would be admitted to the reserve pool. Then, once we were on the stage and the curtain raised, everything moved very quickly ... all of a sudden, we were in the middle of our first major press conference, with hundreds of journalists



I am  
dreaming  
of a mission  
to the  
moon.

and their curious questions. It was all very surreal for me, coming from Lower Bavaria. But you get used to it. My fascination with and passion for space travel and our universe has not changed – distant planets, other solar systems, infinite expanses ...

**And maybe you'll be at the heart of it all. Is there anywhere in space you'd particularly like to go?**

To be honest, I'm already dreaming of a mission to the moon. And perhaps, some day, I could help with the preparations for a mission to Mars. For starters, though, I think it would be amazing to be able to work on the International Space Station – cooperating with an international team of incredibly well educated experts on experiments in zero-gravity, making a decisive contribution to research down on Earth and thereby facilitating innovation. I think it would be unbelievably rewarding. By the way, I think the work on the ISS is one of the most impressive examples of successful international cooperation anywhere in the cosmos.

**In what way?**

It's the result of a collaborative project between the world's leading space agencies and has been operating successfully for 25 years. That's so impressive! Since 2000, the ISS has constantly accommodated astronauts of different nationalities. They have come from Europe, the USA, Russia, Japan, Brazil, South Africa and many other countries. The average crew on the ISS is just six members. However, these six people come from different countries and live and work together at very close quarters and in challenging conditions for several months. The ISS is one of the most challenging workplaces there is. In space, everyone has to stick together and pull in the same direction.

**Where did you first work with international teams?**

It started during my time at university, actually. I studied at TUM, at the Weihenstephan Campus and in Garching. We had a high share of students from around the world and worked on joint projects, both as part of our

studies and away from university. It was wonderful and very rewarding. During my PhD at the Max Perutz Labs, I thoroughly enjoyed the international environment and was able to immerse myself even further through research stays abroad. Intercultural, international cooperation also had a significant influence on my time at the Collège des Ingénieurs. Looking back, almost all my teams have been international and multicultural. I feel very privileged to be able to say that!

**What have you learned from that?**

I've always found it interesting to see how varied the perspectives and working styles of different people working on a project can be. There are many different ways of approaching a project or a problem. In most cases, there isn't just one correct route. At the same time, I've always found it inspiring how open my colleagues were and how eager they were to overcome potentially problematic differences, so that we could work together to achieve the project goals. Although each member of a team matters, we can only achieve things by working together.

A few months ago, Amelie Schoenenwald experienced her first parabolic flight. During this maneuver, an airplane travels in multiple parabolas, temporarily creating gravity-free conditions. This selfie shows her before take-off.



**Dr. Amelie Schoenenwald**

- Bachelor's in Molecular Biotechnology 2012
- Master's in Biochemistry 2015
- Master's in Industrial Biotechnology 2015

Amelie Schoenenwald completed a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biotechnology, a Master's in Biochemistry and a Master's in Industrial Biotechnology at TUM. In 2014, she was awarded a Deutschlandstipendium at TUM. Following research stays in Israel and Singapore, she received her doctorate in Integrative Structural Biology from the Medical University of Vienna. After leaving academia for a career in the private sector, she gained experience in start-ups and major corporations in the healthcare industry, and also completed an international MBA at the Collège des Ingénieurs in Paris. She is currently a specialist project lead, working in the field of rare immunological diseases. Amelie Schoenenwald was admitted to the ESA reserve list in November 2022.

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## Get to Know **Amelie Schoenenwald!**

On February 6, 2024, the ESA reserve astronaut will be speaking about her career to date and her dream of traveling to space at a Women of TUM event.

[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

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# Dates

**BACK ON  
CAMPUS**

This events list was created in August 2023 and is subject to change. Please check the indicated websites for the latest information.

## Double check!

### October 2023

Wed 18/10/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Introduction: Digital Twin in Engineering and Design**  
 Lecture by Prof. Birgit Vogel-Heuser, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 19/10/2023, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
**Architektinnen in der Krankenhausplanung**  
 Discussion group, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Fri 20/10/2023, 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Sun 22/10/2023, 11:00am – 12:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus – Tour for Families with Children**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Tue 24/10/2023, 10:00am – 11:00am  
**Überzeugende Lebensläufe für Promovierende und Postdocs**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 24/10/2023, 7:00pm  
**Wildtiere – Biologie, Konflikte & Management**  
 Lecture by Prof. Andreas König, Lindenkeller Freising  
[www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising](http://www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising)

Wed 25/10/2023, 11:00am – 12:30pm  
**Resilienz – das Geheimnis der inneren Stärke**  
 Lecture by Wolfgang Parnitzke, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 25/10/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Digital Twins in Additive Manufacturing**  
 Lecture by Prof. Katrin Wudy, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Wed 25/10/2023, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
**TUM Start-ups: Meet & Talk – Insights from tozero**  
 Company visit for alumni, Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 25.10.2023, 6:00pm  
**TUM Talk: Fachkräfte der Zukunft – ein Mythos?**  
 Lecture and discussion, Bildungscampus Heilbronn  
[www.tum-talk.de](http://www.tum-talk.de)

Wed 25/10/2023, 6:00 – 9:00pm  
**Weniger ist mehr**  
 Panel discussion from TUM: Junge Akademie, Campus Munich  
[www.ja.tum.de/en/ja/news](http://www.ja.tum.de/en/ja/news)

Wed 25/10/2023, 7:00 – 8:00pm  
**Meetup für TUM Gründerinnen und Gründer**  
 Networking event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 26/10/2023, 6:30 – 7:30pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus – kuratorische Führung**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Fri 27/10/2023, 10:00 – 11:00am  
**Successful Interviewing**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 27/10/2023, 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Sat 28/10/2023, 3:00 – 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus – Turkish language tour**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

### November 2023

Thu 02/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Application, Job Interview, Career Start: Make it Work in a Smooth Way!**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Sat 04/11/2023, 3:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Mon 06/11/2023, 4:00 – 5:00pm  
**Der perfekte Lebenslauf**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 07/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:00pm  
**Industrial Career with a PhD**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 08/11/2023, 8:45 – 10:00am  
**Q&A – Application Documents**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 08/11/2023, 9:30am – 12:00pm  
**Application Photo Shooting at Campus Garching**  
 Application photo shooting, Campus Garching  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 08/11/2023, 1:00 – 3:00pm  
**Live CV-Check am Campus Garching**  
 CV check, Campus Garching  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 08/11/2023, 4:00 – 5:00pm  
**Salary Negotiations**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 08/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
**Promotion – und dann? Karrierewege in Wissenschaft und Industrie**  
 Career Lounge, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 08/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Quantum Technologies at a Glance – Exemplary Use Cases**  
 Masterclass of the TUM Institute for LifeLong Learning, online  
[go.tum.de/001300](http://go.tum.de/001300)

Wed 08/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Executable Digital Twins**  
 Lecture by Dr. Dirk Hartmann, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 09/11/2023, 11:00am – 12:00pm  
**Das professionelle Bewerbungsanschreiben**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 09/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
**Generationswechsel bei den „Klinikbauer\*innen“**  
 Lecture and discussion, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Thu 09/11/2023, 6:15 – 8:00pm  
**Abenteuer Führung**  
 Networking meet-up for managers, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 10/11/2023, 12:00 – 1:00pm  
**Zusammenarbeit mit Headhuntern – darauf sollten Sie achten!**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 10/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:00pm  
**TUM Archiv: eine Schatzkammer des Wissens**  
 Guided tour for alumni, Campus München  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Mon 13/11/2023, 12:45 – 2:15pm  
**Global Minds – Applying and Working in South Africa**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 14/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Online- und Initiativbewerbungen**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 15/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Digital Twinning of Indoor Spaces**  
 Lecture by Prof. Eckehard Steinbach, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 16/11/2023, 12:30 – 1:30pm  
**TUM Mentoring: Q&A Session (DE)**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

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TUM CAREER DAY



## New Architecture for Hospitals

The TUM Architecture Museum exhibition "Building to Heal" (called "Das Kranke(n)haus" in German) will be at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich until January 21, 2024. Check out the extensive program of accompanying events, including tours for families with children!  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en)

# Alumniexclusive

Guided tour with archivist Dr. Ann Katrin Bäumler

## Das TUM Archiv: eine Schatzkammer des Wissens

How did the New Polytechnic School come to be founded in Munich 155 years ago? And why do our university's original focus and its history remain relevant to this day? The TUM Archive is a treasure trove of knowledge, documenting the history of our university. At this event, Dr. Ann Katrin Bäumler, Director of the TUM Archive, will provide an exclusive insight into selected artifacts and the fascinating array of archived items. These include research notes made by Nobel Prize laureates and programs for student celebrations. Afterwards, you can visit the store room, located in the oldest remaining building section at TUM. What is the archive's purpose? What does it store? And who benefits from it? Dr. Bäumler will be happy to answer all your questions. (Please note: This tour will take place in German.)



Decorated mortarboard donated by Nobel prize laureate Prof. Ernst Otto Fischer

An hour with curator Lisa Luksch

## Kuratorische Führung durch die Ausstellung „Das Kranke(n)haus“

Some modern hospitals seem more like high-tech machines than buildings. But shouldn't people remain the focus of architecture, especially for buildings in the health-care sector? On this alumni tour, the exhibition's curator Lisa Luksch (Bachelor's in Architecture 2018, Master's 2022) will take you through the impressive "Building to Heal" exhibition at the TUM Architecture Museum. Drawing on case studies of a number of buildings, our expert will outline how architecture can promote healing and contribute to well-being by incorporating emotional, psychological and functional aspects. This exclusive guided tour also provides an opportunity to speak to the exhibition's curator directly and discuss specific ideas about how we should design healthcare institutions in the future to promote patients' recovery. (Please note: This tour will take place in German.)



An after-work tour with librarian Hedwig Bäcker

## Ein Blick hinter die Kulissen der Universitätsbibliothek

The TUM University Library's collection includes 2.2 million pieces of technical and scientific literature. In addition to books and magazines, the library also has a growing electronic collection: 240,000 e-Books, 66,000 journals and 2,700 research portals and databases. It also has a total of nine branch libraries across the university's Munich, Garching, Weihenstephan and Straubing sites. The library's literature and other services are also available to alumni. On this early evening event, Hedwig Bäcker will take you on a tour of the branch library on the university's main Munich site. We'll outline the services a scientific library offers and take you behind the scenes. You'll gain insider tips and have the opportunity to ask questions. (Please note: This tour will take place in German.)

## Exclusive Guided Tours for TUM Alumni

### DAS TUM ARCHIV: EINE SCHATZKAMMER DES WISSENS

**DATE** Friday November 10, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:00pm

**LOCATION** TUM Archive, Campus Munich

**REGISTRATION** [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

### KURATORISCHE FÜHRUNG DURCH DIE AUSSTELLUNG „DAS KRANKE(N)HAUS“

**DATE** Thursday November 16, 2023 | 6:30 – 7:30pm

**LOCATION** TUM Architecture Museum, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich

**REGISTRATION** [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

### EIN BLICK HINTER DIE KULISSEN DER UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK

**DATE** Thursday January 18, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:30pm

**LOCATION** University Library, Campus Munich

**REGISTRATION** [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

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Thu 16/11/2023, 6:30 – 7:30pm  
**Kuratorische Führung durch die Ausstellung „Das Kranke(n)haus“**  
 Alumni tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 17/11/2023, 10:00 – 11:00am  
**Level up your Profile on Business Platforms**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 17/11/2023, 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Mon 20/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Assessment Center – Tips & Tricks**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 21/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:00pm  
**Berufsfelder im Fokus**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 22/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Human Digital Twins Development and Application**  
 Lecture by Prof. Klaus Bengler, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Wed 22/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
**Von den Römern bis heute – 2000 Jahre Bayerische Geschichte**  
 Lecture by Franz Kapsner, Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 22/11/2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
**Abenteuer Berufseinstieg**  
 Networking meet-up for young alumni, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 23/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Gelungenes Selbstmarketing im Bewerbungsprozess und im Job**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 23/11/2023, 6:30 – 7:30pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus – kuratorische Führung**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Fri 24/11/2023, 10:00 – 11:30am  
**Interview Clinics**  
 Workshop, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Sat 25/11/2023, 3:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Mon 27/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Direkteinstieg versus Traineeprogramm – so finden Sie Ihren Weg**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 28/11/2023, 10:00 – 11:00am  
**International Career with a PhD**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

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## TUM@Freising Lecture Series



Fascinating research insights, accessible language and entertaining presentations: the TUM@Freising lecture series is bringing science to the city. We expressly encourage a lively discussion after every lecture. Come and join in!  
[www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising](http://www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising)

Wed 29/11/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Digital Twins in Logistics: Just another Copy?**  
 Lecture by Prof. Johannes Fottner, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Wed 29/11/2023, 7:00 – 8:00pm  
**Meetup für TUM Gründerinnen und Gründer**  
 Networking event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 30/11/2023, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
**Die heilenden Sieben – Lesung aus dem Buch „Architektur als zweiter Körper“**  
 Reading, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Thu 30/11/2023, 7:00pm  
**Wie wir die Funktionen von Proteinen in der Natur bestimmen**  
 Lecture by Prof. Mathias Wilhelm, Lindenkeller Freising  
[www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising](http://www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising)

## December 2023

Fri 01/12/2023, 10:00 – 11:00am  
**Kickstarting your International Career**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 01/12/2023, 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Sun 03/12/2023, 3:00 – 5:15pm  
**Vivat TUM Concert**  
 Concert, Isarphilharmonie, Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/vivat-tum](http://www.community.tum.de/en/vivat-tum)

Tue 05/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Teamwork – Erfolgsfaktoren für die Zusammenarbeit im Beruf**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 06/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Your First Work Contract: What you Need to Know**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 06/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Potentiale des Digital Twins für die Serienfertigung von Komponenten**  
 Lecture by Prof. Wolfram Volk and Christoph Hartmann, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 07/12/2023, 10:00am – 12:30pm  
**Dies Academicus 2023**  
 Annual academic celebration, Audimax, Campus Munich  
[www.tum.de/en/dies-academicus](http://www.tum.de/en/dies-academicus)

Thu 07/12/2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
**Krankenhausbau als globales Thema**  
 Lecture and discussion, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Sat 09/12/2023, 3:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Mon 11/12/2023, 11:00am – 12:00pm  
**Der perfekte Lebenslauf**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Mon 11/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Bewerbungs- und Recruitingtools in der digitalen Welt**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 12/12/2023, 10:00am – 1:00pm  
**CV-Checks am Campus Weihenstephan**  
 CV check, Campus Weihenstephan  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 12/12/2023, 6:00 – 7:00pm  
**From Doctorate to Patent Attorney**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 13/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:00pm  
**Erfolg im neuen Job – Strategien für die ersten 100 Tage**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 13/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Using Augmented Reality-related Technology for Digital Twins in the Process Industry**  
 Lecture by Prof. Gudrun Klinker, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 14/12/2023, 4:00 – 5:00pm  
**Das professionelle Bewerbungsanschreiben**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 14/12/2023, 6:15 – 8:00pm  
**Abenteuer Führung**  
 Networking meet-up for managers, Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 20/12/2023, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
**Probabilistic Digital Twin**  
 Lecture by Prof. Daniel Straub and Dafyyd Cotoarba, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Fri 22/12/2023, 4:00pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Thu 28/12/2023, 2:00 – 3:30pm  
**Das Kranke(n)haus: tour for people with dementia**  
 Guided tour, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

## For People with Dementia

This guided tour of the “Das Kranke(n)haus” exhibition has been specially conceived for people with dementia and their relatives. It engages all the senses and will take place in German only on December 28 at 2pm. Please register.

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# Alumni **ig**lobal

## TUM Alumni Meet-Ups

From Tokyo to San Francisco, Shanghai to Delhi, you are cordially invited to an alumni meet-up near you. Register at [www.community.tum.de/en/registrierung](http://www.community.tum.de/en/registrierung) and make sure to enter your current location, so that we can let you know about events near you! You can find all current events here: [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

**TUM Global Dialogue Series** An expert exchange between TUM scientists and international partners from Latin America, China, India and the USA on topics such as agricultural research and smart cities. In English, starting from October 10, 2023. [www.international.tum.de/en/global/dialogueseries](http://www.international.tum.de/en/global/dialogueseries)

## Japan



The TUM Alumni group in Japan was formed over a decade ago and meets every year for a convivial Bavarian evening. The event was launched and has been organized for years by group of alumni led by Dr. Yukou Mochida, who was a guest researcher at TUM over 50 years ago.

Tim Bombosch became TUM's new Liaison Officer in San Francisco in 2023. He regularly organizes meet-ups for local TUM Alumni, which are well attended. However, he would love for even more TUM Alumnae to attend the next Women of TUM meet-up – so, if you live on the West Coast of the USA, get in touch!

## San Francisco



TUM Alumni in China get together on a regular basis to discuss specific topics – most recently at the TUM Alumni Salon in Shanghai. TUM Alumna Jiayan Xu (Bachelor's in Informatics 2008, Master's in Business Informatics 2011), member of the Management Board at an international consultancy firm, inspired the audience with a lecture on how digital tools can help companies to manage crises.

## China



Every year, TUM Asia invites alumni to a big gathering in Singapore. On the roof terrace, with wonderful views across Singapore, alumni can enjoy drinks and canapés with other TUM Asia graduates and TUM Alumni who have moved to Singapore for work. Even President Thomas F. Hofmann often shows up (see p. 8).

## Singapore

TUM Alumni in India will be meeting up at a networking event in Delhi on October 16, 2023. It will commence with a fascinating podium discussion focusing on the potential of German-Indian cooperation on production technology in the future – along with the obstacles it faces. TUM Alumna Ria Rustagi (Master's in Integrated Circuit Design 2017), co-founder and CEO of Delhi-based Neuphony by PankhTech, will cast light on the issue from his perspective as an entrepreneur.

## Delhi



## Mérida Mexico

The next TUM Alumni meet-up in Latin America will take place in Mérida, Mexico. TUM Alumnus Dr. Nelson Caballero-Arzapalo (Doctorate in Food Technology and Biotechnology 2015) is organizing the event on November 8, 2023, on the Yucatán Peninsula.



## January 2024

Wed 10/01/2024, 11:00am – 12:00pm

**NEW WORK – wie sich die Arbeitswelt verändert**  
Webinar, online

[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 10/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:30pm

**Digital Twins for Machine Tools**  
Lecture by Prof. Michael Zäh, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 11/01/2024, 6:00pm

**Leadership for Young Professionals and PhDs**  
Lecture by Dr. Silke Maurer, Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 12/01/2024, 10:00 – 11:00am

**Get ahead in your Job Search Ahead with Networking**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 16/01/2024, 3:00 – 4:30pm

**Global Minds – Applying and Working in Sweden**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 16/01/2024, 6:00 – 7:00pm

**Industrial Career with a PhD**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 17/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Analyzing your Potential and Shaping your Candidate Profile**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 17/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:30pm

**Digitale Zwillinge der Fabrik**  
Lecture by Prof. Rüdiger Daub and Christoph Hartmann, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 18/01/2024, 12:30 – 1:30pm

**TUM Mentoring: Q&A Session (EN)**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 18/01/2024, 6:00 – 7:30pm

**Abenteuer Berufseinstieg**  
Networking meet-up for young alumni, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 18/01/2024, 6:00 – 7:30pm

**Ein Blick hinter die Kulissen der Universitätsbibliothek**  
Library tour, Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 18/01/2024, 6:00 – 8:00pm

**Krankenhausbau: Jetzt planen – für die Zukunft denken**  
Symposium, TUM Architecture Museum  
[www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell](http://www.architekturmuseum.de/en/aktuell)

Fri 19/01/2024, 10:00 – 11:30am

**Interview Clinics**  
Workshop, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Mon 22/01/2024, 4:00 – 5:00pm

**Der perfekte Lebenslauf**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## Prospective Students



Does your child aspire to study at TUM? Find out more  
[www.tum.de/en/studies/from-school-to-university](http://www.tum.de/en/studies/from-school-to-university)

Tue 23/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Women of TUM: Reinvent your Career!**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 23/01/2024, 7:00pm

**Auswirkungen des Klimawandels auf den Geschmack von Nutzpflanzen**  
Lecture by Prof. Corinna Dawid, Linden Keller Freising  
[www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising](http://www.ls.tum.de/ls/presse/tumfreising)

Wed 24/01/2024, 09:00 – 10:00am

**Job Prospects for International Students in Germany**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 09:30am – 12:00pm

**Application Photo Shooting**  
Application photo shooting, location tba  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Online Speed Dating with Companies**  
Event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 1:00 – 3:00pm

**CV Check – live über Zoom**  
CV check, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 3:00 – 4:00pm

**Challenging Applications**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 6:00 – 7:30pm

**Career Lounge: Chancen im Patentwesen**  
Career Lounge, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-day](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-day)

Wed 24/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:30pm

**Asset Administration Shell – Standardized Digital Twin in Practice**  
Lecture by Bernd Vojanec, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 25/01/2024, 11:00am – 12:00pm

**Das professionelle Bewerbungsanschreiben**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 25/01/2024, 4:00 – 5:00pm

**Job Hunting with a Strategy**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 30/01/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Rechte und Pflichten im Job – Arbeitsvertrag und Arbeitszeugnisse**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 31/01/2024, 10:00 – 11:00am

**Convincing CVs for PhD Students and Postdocs**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 31/01/2024, 7:00 – 8:00pm

**Meetup für TUM Gründerinnen und Gründer**  
Networking event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## February 2024

Thu 01/02/2024, 4:00 – 5:30pm

**Redesign your Career with Design Thinking**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 01/02/2024, 6:15 – 8:00pm

**Abenteuer Führung**  
Networking meet-up for managers, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 06/02/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Vorbereitung auf eine neue Rolle als Führungskraft**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Tue 06/02/2024, time tba

**Women of TUM-Event mit Dr. Amelie Schoenenwald**  
Lecture, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 07/02/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Irrtümer im Bewerbungsprozess**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 07/02/2024, 5:00 – 6:30pm

**From the Built Environment via Sensor Data to Digital Twins**  
Lecture by Dr. Stefan Kollmannsberger, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

Thu 08/02/2024, 4:00 – 5:00pm

**Applications in English-Speaking Countries**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 28/02/2024, 7:00 – 8:00pm

**Meetup für TUM Gründerinnen und Gründer**  
Networking event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## Digital Twins

A new lecture series, "Digitaler Zwilling im Engineering und Design", will start on October 18, 2023. Come along!  
[go.tum.de/614041](http://go.tum.de/614041)

## March 2024

Fri 01/03/2024, 1:00 – 6:00pm

**For prospective Bachelor's students: TUM Open Campus Weihenstephan**  
Information day, Campus Weihenstephan  
[go.tum.de/554996](http://go.tum.de/554996)

Fri 08/03/2024, 10:00 – 11:00am

**Q&A for PhDs: How to Prepare for a Career in Industry**  
Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

ALUMNI EXCLUSIVE



TUM CAREER DAY



ALUMNI EXCLUSIVE



Fri 08/03/2024, 1:00 – 6:00pm

**For prospective Bachelor's students:**  
**TUM Open Campus Munich**  
 Information day, Campus Munich  
[go.tum.de/089767](http://go.tum.de/089767)

Mon 11/03/2024, 11:00am – 12:00pm

**Der perfekte Lebenslauf**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Wed 13/03/2024, 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Praxistipps für Vorstellungsgespräche und Gehaltsverhandlungen**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 14/03/2024, 4:00 – 5:00pm

**Das professionelle Bewerbungsanschreiben**  
 Webinar, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Thu 14/03/2024, 6:15 – 8:00pm

**Abenteuer Führung**  
 Networking meet-up for managers,  
 Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 15/03/2024, 1:00 – 6:00pm

**For prospective Bachelor's students:**  
**TUM Open Campus Garching**  
 Information day, Campus Garching  
[go.tum.de/554996](http://go.tum.de/554996)

Mon 18/03/2024 – Fri 22/03/2024,  
 9:00am – 7:00pm

**TUM Master's Days 2024 – for prospective Master's students**  
 Lecture series, online  
[www.tum.de/mastermesse](http://www.tum.de/mastermesse)

Wed 20/03/2024, 6:00 – 7:30pm

**Abenteuer Berufseinstieg**  
 Networking meet-up for young alumni, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

Fri 22/03/2024, 1:00 – 6:00pm

**For prospective Bachelor's students:**  
**TUM Open Campus Straubing**  
 Information day, Campus Straubing  
[go.tum.de/554996](http://go.tum.de/554996)

Wed 27/03/2024, 7:00 – 8:00pm

**Meetup für TUM Gründerinnen und Gründer**  
 Networking event, online  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## April 2024

Wed 10/04/2024, 6:00 – 9:00pm

**Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges: Celebrating 15 Years of Women of TUM**  
 Celebration, Campus Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## Stay Up to Date!

You will receive further event information in the newsletter for alumni „TUM Updates“. Simply subscribe via your alumni profile at [www.community.tum.de](http://www.community.tum.de) or by e-mail to [alumniandcareer@tum.de](mailto:alumniandcareer@tum.de)

After graduating, alumni remain part of the global TUM family and have the opportunity to access wide-ranging services from their alma mater:  
[www.community.tum.de/en/alumni](http://www.community.tum.de/en/alumni)

## Your Career

You can source professional support when starting your career and planning your next steps through the **Career Program from Alumni & Career** – a life-long service for all TUM Alumni.

### Career Webinars

Each semester, we host over 70 seminars on a full range of career-related topics, from tips on putting together an application to negotiating your salary.  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events/career](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events/career)

### Online CV Check

Upload your CV, your cover letter and any other documents – and get feedback from our experts.  
[www.community.tum.de/en/cv-check](http://www.community.tum.de/en/cv-check)

### TUM Career Guide

Get your dedicated application guide containing all the information you need to write a successful application and make a successful start to your career. Available in [print and online](#)  
[www.community.tum.de/en/career-guide](http://www.community.tum.de/en/career-guide)

## Professional Development

TUM offers a wide range of part-time, university-level certificate courses for every phase in your career in the fields of business, science and society. Take advantage of the extensive range offered by the TUM Institute for LifeLong Learning – TUM Alumni also receive a discount of 10% on course fees.

[www.lll.tum.de/certificate-programs](http://www.lll.tum.de/certificate-programs)

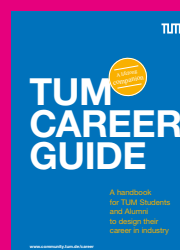
Here's a selection of courses from the TUM Institute for LifeLong Learning's portfolio:

- BIM Professional (DE)*
- Digital Twins für Städte (DE)*
- Employer Brand Manager (DE)*
- Finance & Accounting (EN)*
- Quantum Technologies (EN)*
- Responsible Leadership*
- in the Age of Disruptive Technologies (EN)*
- Strategy & Organization (EN)*
- Sustainable Investing (Campus Heilbronn, DE)*
- Sustainable Real Estate (DE)*
- Sustainable Management & Technology (EN)*

**FREE MASTERCLASS**  
 08/11/2023 5:00 – 6:00PM

## Quantum Technologies at a Glance

Quantum technologies are a strongly growing scientific research field with great application potential for industry. The keynote of this masterclass will focus on exemplary use cases. [go.tum.de/001300](http://go.tum.de/001300)



# For Alumni by

The TUM Community is brought to life by intergenerational, interdisciplinary and international exchange. Each semester, countless TUM Alumni serve as mentors and advisors, as contacts for alumni groups in Germany and overseas, and as ambassadors for TUM and the TUM Community. Get in touch and get involved!

## RESILIENCE

### Das Geheimnis der inneren Stärke

Constant change is part of our everyday life. So too is stress, both positive and negative. In this webinar, TUM Alumnus and mentor Wolfgang Parnitzke (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1994) will draw on his expertise as a resilience coach to provide inspiration and ideas to help you improve your personal resilience.

## ONLINE

Wednesday, 25/10/2023  
11:00am – 12:30pm

Register at  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)



## Networking Meet-Ups

The concept of a networking meet-up is based on the principle of mutual learning and finding shared solutions.

### Managers

Within the TUM Community, a group of professionals in management positions has come together and now holds informal meetings and promotes collegial networking. In addition to accomplished managers, less experienced professionals who have recently accepted a management position can also benefit from discussions with like-minded people.

#### Upcoming dates at Campus Munich:

Thursday, 09/11/2023 | 6:15 – 8:00pm  
Thursday, 14/12/2023 | 6:15 – 8:00pm

### Young Professionals

The first 100 days in a job, the challenges of day-to-day work, plans for next career steps – career entrants have a whole host of new things to consider when starting out in the world of work. In the TUM Community, young alumni in the first year of their careers meet to network and benefit from sharing their experiences with other young alumni.

#### Upcoming online dates:

Wednesday, 22/11/2023 | 6:00 – 7:30pm  
Thursday, 18/01/2024 | 6:00 – 7:30pm

Interested? You're very welcome to attend. Please send an email to [alumniandcareer@tum.de](mailto:alumniandcareer@tum.de). You can find a full list of upcoming dates at [www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

## SPARRING PARTNERS

### TUM Mentoring Professional

In this mentoring program, alumni with years of professional experience support young professionals, serving as sparring partners on topics such as changing industry or company, independence, reconciling work and family life, leading teams – and much more. Are you looking for a mentor? Or perhaps you'd like to offer your expertise through the program?

Get in touch with us at:  
[mentoring@tum.de](mailto:mentoring@tum.de)

## FROM THE ROMANS TO THE MODERN DAY

### 2000 Jahre Bayerische Geschichte



TUM Alumnus and mentor Franz Kapsner (Master's in Mathematics 1977) has been researching the history of Bavaria for more than 50 years. Join him as he delves into its rich, varied history, starting from our Roman roots over two millennia ago all the way through to our modern, globalized world, and discover how the past has shaped a Bavarian identity combining tradition and innovation.

Date: Wednesday, 22/11/2023 | 6:00 – 7:30pm, Campus Munich. Register at:  
[www.community.tum.de/en/events](http://www.community.tum.de/en/events)

# Alumni



This group founded Women of TUM in Singapore in 2009.

## BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES

### Women of TUM Turns 15

initiative and founded the Women of TUM group with the aim of promoting networking exchange between women in the TUM Community. Women of TUM events give participants the opportunity to inspire one another, share their experiences, hone their networking skills and make crucial contacts for their future academic and professional development. Over 12,000 women have registered online to date. The group has organized a celebration to mark its 15th anniversary.

Join the party! Wednesday, 10/04/2024 | 6:00 – 9:00pm | Munich  
[www.community.tum.de/en/women](http://www.community.tum.de/en/women)

## TUM Communities in Germany

Launched by dedicated TUM Alumnae and alumni, TUM Communities have been active in various cities for many years, organizing events and planning joint activities. One example is the enterprising TUM Alumni group in Stuttgart, currently led by Harald Bergmann (Master's in Physics 1987), Helmut Hackstein (Master's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1975) and Chantal Rietdorf (Master's in Sustainable Resource Management 2022). Would you like to come along? Maybe you'd like to found another alumni group?

Email [alumniandcareer@tum.de](mailto:alumniandcareer@tum.de)



The TUM Community podcast series "That's My Job" features an episode called "How to Start a Job in Germany" with TUM Alumnus Himanshu Panandikar (Master's in Power Engineering 2018).

## LISTEN UP!

### PODCASTS FROM TUM

Whether it's the latest research insights, insider knowledge from TUM or tips on jobs and careers, podcasts can bring any topic to life.

#### THAT'S MY JOB.

The careers podcast for the TUM Community: TUM Alumni describe their inspiring career paths, discussing issues with candor and honesty.

[www.community.tum.de/en/podcast](http://www.community.tum.de/en/podcast)

#### WE ARE TUM.

Research outcomes and hidden champions – our German-language "We are TUM" podcast features the people who make up our university. A new episode is released every six weeks. Listen to all episodes here: [www.tum.de/en/news-and-events/podcasts/we-are-tum](http://www.tum.de/en/news-and-events/podcasts/we-are-tum)

#### LEADERSHIP MATTERS.

The current "Leadership Matters" podcast series from the TUM Institute for LifeLong Learning is dedicated to the topic of leadership. What are the characteristics of good leadership? Are some people inherently effective leaders? And how useful is leadership training? You can find all podcast series from the TUM Institute for Lifelong Learning here: [www.ill.tum.de/podcast](http://www.ill.tum.de/podcast)

# SUCCESSES in the TUM Community

Date: July 21, 2023

A

**Dr. Aldo Ammendola** (Doctorate in Biology 1999) was appointed to the Management Board of InfectoPharm Arzneimittel und Consilium GmbH in May 2023. He was previously Chief Research & Development Officer at Weleda AG in Switzerland. ♦ In March 2023, **Dominik Asam** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1994) became the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at SAP. He spent four years as CFO at Airbus and a further eight years as CFPO at Infineon. ♦ In March 2023, **Prof. Dr. Beyhan Ataseven** (Doctorate in Human Medicine 1999) accepted an appointment to the Chair of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Bielefeld University, focusing on gynecological oncology. She also became Director of the Gynecology Clinic at Klinikum Lippe in May. Ataseven was previously a senior physician at the Evangelische Klinik Essen-Mitte.

B

**Dr. Christian Bach** (State Examination in Medicine 2002) has headed up the Robot-Assisted Surgery department in the Urology Clinic at University Hospital Cologne since February 2023. Before moving to Cologne, he was Director of the Robotics department he founded at the Urology Clinic at Uniklinik RWTH Aachen. ♦ In July 2023, **Eva-Maria Bauch** (Master's in Informatics 1996) joined the management team of Mediengruppe Oberfranken and will become solely responsible for the holding company's management from January 2024. She was previously Managing Director at Deloitte Digital GmbH. ♦ **Tobias Bäuml** (Master's in Civil Engineering 2003) is the new Director of the Planning and Building Authority in Amberg-Sulzbach. He was previously Director of the Fürth office of the Northern Bavarian branch of Autobahn GmbH. ♦ **Dr. Bernhard Böhm** (Doctorate in Civil Engineering 2001), Director of the Sewage Network and Treatment Plant Operations department at Münchner Stadtentwässerung, has been appointed the new Chair of the Bavarian Regional Group of the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA). ♦ **Dr. Daniel Braun** (Doctorate in Informatics 2021) has received the 2022 KlarText Award for Science Communication. After obtaining his doctorate from TUM, he accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Business Information Systems at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. ♦ **Dr. Jörn Breuer** (Master's in Agricultural Science 1988,

Doctorate 1994) is the new Director of the Center for Agricultural Technology (LTZ) Augustenberg. He first joined the LTZ in 2011 and had been active as Deputy Director since 2022.

D

**Georg Dischner** (Bachelor's in Forestry and Resource Management 2013, Master's 2015) became Director of the Kaisheim Forestry Authority in March 2023. He previously headed up the Center for Energy Wood (ZfE) at the Bavarian State Forest Authority (BaySF) in Oberammergau. ♦ As of April 2023, the Institute of Agricultural Economics at the Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture (LfL) has a new Director: **Dr. Gerhard Dorfner** (Master's in Agricultural Science 1996, Doctorate 2000). He was previously the Institute's Deputy Director and Coordinator of its Diversification working area.

E

In October 2022, **Martin Endisch** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1986) was appointed the new Head of Development and Application Technology for Rolled Products at DC Druck-Chemie, a supplier of specialty chemicals. He had previously spent many years as a director of development and application technology at companies producing consumables for the printing industry. ♦ **Gerson Engel** (Master's in Mathematics/Physics 2021) became the new Director of the Oberstufenrealgymnasium in Bogenhofen, Austria. He has been teaching physics, chemistry and mathematics at the school since 2017.

F

**Prof. Dr. Sarah-Maria Fendt** (Bachelor's in Biochemistry 2003, Master's 2005), who is currently a Professor at KU Leuven and Principal Investigator at the VIB Center for Cancer Biology, has been honored with the Francqui-Collen Prize – Belgium's most prestigious scientific award. She is also the youngest recipient of the ARC Leopold Griffuel Award, an internationally renowned prize in the field of cancer research. ♦ Synthomer plc has appointed **Dr. Martina Flöel** (Doctorate in Chemistry, 1988) to the position of Non-Executive Director. She was appointed to the Management Board in September 2023 and is a member of the Audit, Remuneration and Nomination Committees. Before that, she was a board member

at Helsinki-listed Neste Corporation. ♦ **Björn Freitag** (Master's in Forestry 2010) was appointed to the new Office for Strategic Urban Development and Future Issues at the City of Speyer in September 2022. He was previously active as Senior Project Manager at the Institute for Sustainable Energy Supply (INEV) in Rosenheim. ♦ The agricultural machinery manufacturer Claas has entrusted leadership of its Corporate Communications division to **Tino Fritsch** (MBA 2007). He previously served as Senior Vice President Corporate Communications & Marketing and Board Member at corrugated cardboard manufacturer Progroup.

G

**Dr. Berislav Gaso** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 2001) was appointed to the Management Board of OMV Aktiengesellschaft in March 2023 and is responsible for its Energy division. He was previously active as Executive Vice President of the MOL Group. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Jens Gempt** (Habilitation in Medicine 2014) became Director of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf. His former position was Deputy Director of the Department of Neurosurgery at TUM's Klinikum rechts der Isar. ♦ **Dr. Stephan Glander** (Master's in Chemistry 1995, Doctorate 1998) was became CEO of Biesterfeld AG, an internationally leading chemicals distributor, in April 2023. He was previously CEO of BYK, a subsidiary of the Altana Group, where he was also part of the company's Executive Management Committee. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Simone Graf** (Habilitation 2021) is now Director of the University Hospital for Hearing, Speech and Voice Disorders in Innsbruck in July 2023. She previously headed up the Phoniatics and Speech Pathology unit in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at TUM's Klinikum rechts der Isar. ♦ Since the start of the year, **Dr. Sebastian Gresset** (Master's in Agricultural Science 2009, Doctorate 2014) has led a working group in the field of hops breeding research at the Bavarian State Research Center for Agriculture (LfL). He was previously a teacher and advisor at the Dr. Eisenmann Agricultural College in Pfaffenhofen. ♦ **Dr. Philipp Groha** (State Examination in Medicine 2006, Doctorate 2012) became the new Chief Physician at the Vivantes Klinikum Kaulsdorf in April 2023, where he heads up the Emergency department. He was previously Medical Director

of the Emergency department at the Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder in Munich.

H

In May 2023, **Georg Henig** (Management and Technology Postgraduate Studies 2005) was made Partner and Head of Life and Health Insurance EMEA at Roland Berger. Henig has also worked at various international consultancy firms, including as a Partner at Oliver Wyman and McKinsey & Company. ♦ In September 2022, the German Chemical Society (GDCh) presented **Prof. Dr. Rainer Herges** (Doctorate in Chemistry 1984) of Kiel University (CAU) with the Adolf-von-Baeyer Memorial Medal. This award, which is endowed with €7,500, is awarded to scientists who produce outstanding work in the field of organic chemistry. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang A. Herrmann** (Master's in Chemistry 1971) – TUM Emeritus of Excellence – was awarded the Medal for Special Services to Bavaria in a United Europe in September 2022 for his “significant contribution to Bavaria's leading role in internationalization”. Wolfgang A. Herrmann was President of TUM until 2019. ♦ **Dr. Anna Hocker** (Master's in Business with Technology 2016) became a Consultant at Spencer Stuart's Munich office in February 2023. She joins the firm from McKinsey, where she had spent over five years assisting numerous high-profile technology companies in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. ♦ In September 2022, **Michelle Horn-Cetinköprülü** (Bachelor's in Landscape Architecture and Planning 2015) was named the new Orchard Consultant for the Municipality of Main-Spessart. She was previously employed at an environmental consultancy in Hessen.

K

**Dr. Aishwarya Kakatkar** (Doctorate in Entrepreneurship 2021) received the Stöbich Entrepreneurship Promotion Prize for her dissertation in October 2022. As a economist with international research experience, Kakatkar examines how trust develops as the basis for successful cooperation in entrepreneurial teams. ♦ In March 2022, **Roland Kiefl** (State Examination in Physics, Chemistry, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 2004) became the new Deputy Director of the Aloys-Fischer-Schule in Deggendorf. He was previously active as Permanent Deputy to the Director of the FOS/BOS Bad Tölz. ♦ **Luitpold Kinninger** (Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 2011, Master's in Business 2015) will become the Managing Director of Schlachthof Passau GmbH from 2024. To date, he has also worked as Project Engineer and

Head of Department at the Dräxlmaier Group. ♦ **Wilhelm Kirchensteiner** (State Examination in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1979) received the Bavarian Climate Protection Award in 2022. He taught electrical engineering at vocational schools in Munich for 35 years. Since retiring, Kirchensteiner he has developed his professional education projects on climate protection in Germany and internationally in support of an energy transition and climate protection in power supplies, heating and mobility. ♦ **Dr. Jan Klügge** (Master's in Chemistry 2001, Doctorate 2004) was appointed the new Chief Technology Officer at MC-Bauchemie Müller in April 2023. After completing his doctorate,

Klügge held various positions at a major international company in the field of building chemistry in Europe and Asia, and most recently served as Managing Director of an injection and sealing technology manufacturer. ♦ In March 2023, **PD Dr. Marc Kottmaier** (Doctorate in Human Medicine 2016, Habilitation 2020) became a specialist doctor at the Kardiologische Praxis in Neusäß. He completed his clinical training at TUM's Klinikum rechts der Isar and at the German Heart Center Munich (DHM). ♦ **Prof. Dr. Alexander Kutter** (Master's in Food Technology and Biotechnology 2007) is the new Professor of Virtual Reality – Digital Media Production at the Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences and Arts (TH OWL). After completing his Doctorate in Food Processing Technology, his keen interest in virtual production and years of professional experience in the field of marketing led him to his new position at TH OWL.

L

In February 2023, **Prof. Dr. Werner Lang** (Master's in Architecture 1988, Doctorate 2000) became Vice President for Sustainable Transformation at TUM. He has been Professor of Energy Efficient and Sustainable Design and Building at TUM since 2010 and is also Director of the Oskar von Miller Forum.

M

**Prof. Dr. Christian Mayer** (Habilitation in Ophthalmology 2019) has been appointed to an extraordinary professorship by the University of Heidelberg. He has been Chief Physician at the Eye Clinic of the Ortenau-Klinikum Offenburg-Kehl since June 2022. ♦ In June 2023, **Steffen Meyer** (Master's in Forestry and Wood Science 2012) officially became the new Director of the Lower Forestry Authority in the Municipality of Neckar-Odenwald. Meyer previously worked at the State Forestry Authority for Baden-Württemberg (ForstBW). ♦ **Prof. Dr. Matthias Miederer** (State Examination in Medicine 2001, Doctorate 2003) is now a Professor at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) in Dresden and Senior Physician in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Carl Gustav Carus Hospital in Dresden. He was previously a senior physician and Deputy Director at the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University Medical Center Mainz. ♦ **Dr. Anton Mindl** (Master's in Physics 1983, Doctorate 1987) is a new member of the Entrepreneurs' Council at eCapital AG. He was CEO of Elmos Semiconductor SE from 2006 to 2020 and has continued to support the Dortmund-based company in an advisory capacity since 2021. ♦ In November 2022, **Maximilian Muninger** (Master's in Forestry 2006) was appointed Head of Forestry

## TUM AMBASSADORS 2022

For decades, international guest scientists visited TUM to conduct research – some only visiting briefly, some staying for longer. These visitors enrich our university not only with their scientific expertise and international experience, but also through their willingness to cooperate and wide-ranging engagement. In recognition of their services, the President of TUM has bestowed the honorary title of TUM Ambassador on some of these elite international researchers every year since 2013, representing all former TUM researchers worldwide.

### The following researchers were named TUM Ambassadors in 2022

#### Prof. Hany Mahfouz Helal

Faculty of Engineering |  
Cairo University (EGY)

#### Prof. Jane McKeating

Nuffield Department of Medicine |  
University of Oxford (UK)

#### Prof. Piet Naudé

Director Quality Services EFMD &  
EDAF Director | Stellenbosch  
Business School (SA)

#### Prof. A. Lee Swindlehurst

Samueli School of Engineering |  
University of California, Irvine (USA)

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and Deputy Director of the Office of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AELF) for Landau an der Isar-Pfarrkirchen. He was previously active as Deputy Director of the Bavarian Forestry College/ Bavarian Technical College for Forest Management in Lohr am Main.



**Martin Obholzer** (Executive MBA 2017) became Operations Director for the Public Sector segment at Cisco Deutschland in July 2023. He started his career at the company in 2010 through its internal training program for sales representatives. ♦ **Heidi Oppelt** (Bachelor's in Forestry and Resource Management 2021) has taken on the position of District Head in the Zell State Forest in March 2023. One of the largest natural forest reserves in Bavaria was recently established in her district.



In August 2022, **PD Dr. Dr. Jelena Pabst von Ohain** (Habilitation 2021) took up her position as the new Chief Physician at Sana Herzchirurgie Stuttgart, with responsibility for congenital cardiac defect surgery and pediatric cardiac surgery. She was previously a senior physician at the LMU University Hospital in Großhadern, Munich. ♦ **Stefanie Pahnke** (Master's in Horticultural Science 2007) was appointed Head of the Department of Horticulture at the Office of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AELF) for Abensberg-Landshut in April 2023. She had been active as Head of its Business Development and Market subunit and Deputy Department Head since 2017. ♦ **Dr. Reinhard Ploss** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1981, Doctorate 1990) was named the new President of acatech – National Academy of Science and Engineering in April 2023. He served as CEO of Infineon for many years before stepping down in March 2023 and is a member of the TUM Board of Trustees. ♦ In the fall of 2022, **Dr. Doris Pokorny** (Master's in Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning 1990) became Director of the Bavarian Administrative Office for the Rhön UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. She worked as a freelancer at the TUM Chair of Landscape Ecology from 1990 to 1991. She was active for the Rhön Biosphere Reserve in various roles and positions since 1991 and became Deputy Director in 2010. ♦ In April 2023, **Alexandra Preis** (Bachelor's in Forestry and Resource Management 2019, Master's in Forestry and Wood Science 2020) became the first woman to become a District Head at the Villingen-Schwenningen Forestry Office. As preparation, she followed her studies by completing a period in the advanced forestry service.



**Dr. Jürgen Rebel** (Master's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1997, Doctorate 2000) took on the role of Senior Vice President, Investor Relations at ams OSRAM in July 2023. He had previously held management positions in the corporate group, most recently Senior Vice President & General Manager, where he was responsible for its operations involving optical sensors and components. ♦ In December 2022, **Dr. Florentin Reiter** (Master's in Physics 2009) became Head of the Quantum Systems business unit at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Solid State Physics (IAF). He was previously a Group Leader at ETH Zurich. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Friedrich Röpke** (Doctorate 2003, Habilitation 2008) is Head of the Physics of Stellar Objects research group at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies. He has received a prestigious scientific award from the European Research Council: an ERC Advanced Grant with funding of €2.5 million for the "ExCEED" project. ♦ **Mario Roser** (Master's in Management and Technology 2017) secured the 2022 Eugen Münch Award in the "Best Healthcare Start-up" category with his company, Elixion Medical. He laid the foundations for his start-up while studying for his Master's degree at TUM. ♦ **Simon Rossmann** (Master's in Brewing and Beverage Technology 2012) joined Doemens in July 2022, where he has been tasked with optimizing and certifying its ring analysis processes. He was previously Technical Operations Director at Giesinger Braumanufaktur. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Christina Rothhaar** (Doctorate in Economics 2001) was appointed Professor of the Human Resource Management and Organizational Development at Munich University of Applied Sciences (HM) in March 2022. She was previously Acting Dean of Psychology at Hochschule Fresenius.



**Prof. Dr. Karl-Viktor Schaller** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1985, Doctorate 1990) has been appointed to the Board of Directors at Volta Trucks. He is an Honorary Professor at TUM and has already held numerous leadership positions and duties on various management boards in the automotive industry. Until 2019, he was Head of Motorcycle Development at BMW. ♦ In January 2023, **Maria Schießl** (Bachelor's in Renewable Resources 2020) became Climate Protection Manager for the District of Straubing-Bogen. Alongside her professional duties, she is also writing her Master's thesis at the TUM Campus for Biotechnology and Sustainability in Straubing. ♦ **Wolfgang Schleicher** (Master's in Agricultural Sciences 2004) was as-

sumed the position of Managing Director of the German Poultry Association (ZDG) in October 2022, making his responsible for the joint association office in Berlin. He previously served as Head of the Public Relations department at the Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (StMELF). ♦ **Dr. Michael Schmidt** (Master's in Forestry 2003, Doctorate 2014) was named Senior Forest Director at the Office of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (AELF) for Bayreuth-Münchberg in October 2022. He previously headed up the Forestry department in Kulmbach-Coburg. ♦ In December 2022, **Dr. Siegfried Schmidner** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1997) came on board as Plant Manager at Audi's Ingolstadt site. He previously headed up its Product Engineering department, playing a central role in Audi production operations, focusing in particular on strategy, digitalization and transformation. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Jan Schumann** (Doctorate in Economics 2009) became the new Vice President for Research at the University of Passau in April 2023. He is also the holder of the Chair of Marketing and Innovation. ♦ In February 2023, **Jochen Schütte** (Master's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1993) was appointed Chief Financial Officer of AUVESY-MDT in Landau. Schütte brings around 25 years of experience in the software industry to the table, having most recently spent nine years as an Executive Board member and CFO at F24 AG. ♦ In July, **Dr. Bernd Seuling** (State Examination in Metal Technology/Social Studies 2001) became the new Director of the Staatliche Fach- und Berufshochschule Traunstein. He has worked at the school since 2018 and was previously an overseas staff member focusing on international collaboration at the Hanns Seidel Foundation. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Sebastian Siebenlist** (Habilitation 2014) was appointed Director of Sports Orthopedics in the Department of Orthopedics and Sports Orthopedics at TUM's Klinikum rechts der Isar. He was previously a senior physician and Deputy Director. ♦ **Christian Siekmann** (Master's in Aerospace 2005) is a new Partner in CYLAD's Munich office. He has over a decade of experience in the consultancy sector, including with Porsche Consulting and AlixPartners, where he supported customers in the aviation, automotive and industrial goods industries. ♦ Since June 2022, **Linda Simon** (Bachelor's in Management & Technology 2013, Master's 2016) has served as Director of Strategy at Sunfire, with responsibility for all strategic affairs. She was previously a Senior Project Manager at consultancy firm Roland Berger. ♦ **Martin Sprenger** (Executive MBA 2019) is now Director of Strategy, Expansion & Transformation at Euronics Germany. He has been at the company



## DISSERTATION AWARDS 2022

Freunde der TUM e.V. – the association of TUM alumni and friends of the university – presents awards each year for outstanding doctoral and habilitation dissertations at TUM.

The winners in 2022, collecting prize money of €1,500 each, were:

### Dr. Matthias Caro

Doctorate, TopMath 2021  
*Quantum Learning Theory*

### PD Dr. Katharina Crepaz

Habilitation, Health Sciences 2020  
*Fostering Political Participation, Representation, and Well-Being: Why Diversity and Inclusion Governance Matters*

### Dr. Andreas M. Hottenrott

Doctorate, Production and Supply Chain Management 2021  
*Smart Factory in the Automotive Industry: Design of Novel Flexible Layouts and Data-Driven Sequencing for Traditional Assembly Lines*

### PD Dr. Eva Maria Huber

Bachelor's in Biochemistry 2007, Master's 2009, Doctorate 2013, Habilitation 2021  
*Inhibitors, Activators and Assembly Defects of Mammalian Proteasome Types*

### PD Dr. Monika Leischner-Brill

Habilitation, Neurosciences 2021  
*Cell Biology of Axon-Glial Remodeling*

### Dr. Anna Meier

Doctorate, Medicine 2022  
*Advanced hiPSC-based Platforms for In Vitro Modeling of Cardiac Development, Disease, and Therapy*

### Dr. Fabian Wenner

Doctorate, Urban Development 2021  
*Interrelations between Transport Infrastructure and Urban Development. The Case of High-Speed Rail Stations*

for four years and previously worked as a business consultant at various IT and consultancy firms. ♦ **Lorenz Stangl** (Bachelor's in Civil Engineering 2012, Master's 2016) is the new Director of the Planning and Building Authority for the Mainburg Administrative Association. He previously worked at the engineering firm Lammel, Lerch und Partner in Regensburg. ♦

**Dr. Michael Steiner** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1991, Doctorate 1995) is a member of the Executive Board of Porsche AG with responsibility for Research and Development. He was also appointed to the Supervisory Board of Volkswagen in September 2022. ♦ An expert on IT and machine learning, **Dr. Jan Stühmer** (Doctorate in Informatics 2016) has been tasked with leading the new Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence research group at the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies. He has also been appointed a Junior Professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. ♦ The Supervisory Board of Palfinger selected **Dr. Alexander Susaneck** (Master's in Management and Technology 2002) as its new Chief Operating Officer. Susaneck previously worked for BMW for several years, most recently Director of Global Engine Production.

## T

In May 2023, **Dr. Karin Thelen** (Master's in Biology 2002, Doctorate 2009, Executive MBA 2018) accepted the newly created position of Managing Director for Regional Energy Transition at Stadtwerke München. In her previous position at Munich's municipal utility company, she was responsible for technical quality assurance. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Florian M. Thieringer** (State Examination in Medicine 2004) became Director of Maxillofacial Surgery at Universitätsspital Basel in October 2022. He has also been appointed Professor of Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Basel's Medical Faculty. He has worked at the Universitätsspital Basel since 2004. ♦ **Prof. Dr. Frank Tidden** (Doctorate in Civil Engineering 2002) has been made an Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Civil and Construction Engineering (BIW) at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT). Tidden was active at Bauer-Unternehmensgruppe for 20 years and is Head of Sales in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. ♦ In July 2023, **Dr. Michael Tröster** (Doctorate in Agricultural Production and Resource Economics 2022) became the new Director of the Plant Cultivation and Experimentation department at the Agricultural Education Center (LLA) in Triesdorf, operated by the District of Mittelfranken. He has worked for the district authorities since 2012, most recently as Department Head at the Center of Expertise for Energy and Agricultural Technology (FEL). ♦ **Dr. Fotios Tsounis** (Doctorate in Human Medicine 2009) is a vascular surgeon in the Vascular Medicine department at Kreiskrankenhaus Schrobenhausen. Tsounis has previously worked at Klinikum Schwabing and Klinikum Augsburg.

## V

**Dr. Jona van Laak** (Doctorate in Political Science 2018) is the new Research Director at Munich-based PR-Com. He previously worked as a science editor and analyst at specialist publishers in the IT and construction sectors, and also teaches at various universities. ♦ In January 2023, **Oliver Vogelgesang** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 1992) was appointed new Chief Financial Officer at TUM start-up Liliium. He has almost 30 years' experience in the fields of finance and aviation, most recently as Managing Director Finance at Airbus Germany. ♦ **Egon von Elzenbaum** (Bachelor's in Civil Engineering 2009, Master's 2011) became the Municipal Architect of Schrobenhausen in November 2022. He previously worked at a large German construction firm.

## W

**Prof. Dr. Stephan Weidinger** (Doctorate in Medicine 1999, Habilitation 2007) has taken up the post of Director of the Department of Dermatology, Venerology and Allergology at Campus Kiel. He was appointed a Professor at Kiel University in 2011 and also previously served as the department's Deputy Director. ♦ In October 2022, Prym appointed **Dr. Robert Wittmann Wittmann** (Master's in Mechanical Engineering 2012, Doctorate 2017) as the new Head of Inovon and a member of the Management Board of the Prym Group. In his previous position he was active as Chief Operations Officer at Nanogate SE. ♦ **Alf Henryk Wulf** (Master's in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology 1991) has been the President of the Verband Deutscher Elektrotechniker (VDE) since early 2023. After finishing his studies, he worked in industry for many years, holding management positions at companies such as Alcatel-Lucent Deutschland, Alstom and GE Power. He is currently an active investor and a member and chair of supervisory boards at various companies. ♦ **Dr. Sascha Wunderlich** (Master's in Brewing 2003, Doctorate 2013) has been responsible for operational management at Warsteiner Brauerei since October 2022, based at the company's headquarters. He was previously Technical Operations Director at Störtebecker Braumanufaktur.

## Z

**Dr. Doris Zoller** (Doctorate in Architecture 2015) was named Managing Director of GEWOFAG Holding GmbH in January 2022. An architect and urban planner, Zoller has held management positions in the Municipal Housing department at the City of Munich.

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make the text easier to read.

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## ***#tumcommunityfriday!***

Sagnik Dutta from Kolkata is a Communications Engineering student at TUM. He posted this photo to celebrate #tumcommunityfriday. You can find further snapshots on our Instagram profile, @tum.alumni

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 3pm

Isarphilharmonie

Hans-Preißinger-Straße 8, Munich

# VIVAT TUM CONCERT 2023 INVITATION for Alumni

## PROGRAM

### George Gershwin

Strike up the Band: Overture

### Professor Dr. Thomas F. Hofmann

President of TUM

Welcome address

### Florence Price and others

Vocal music

### Florence Price

Symphony No. 3 in C minor

Conductor: Professor Felix Mayer

Choir: TUMChor

Orchestra: Symphonisches Ensemble München

Tickets for the Vivat TUM Concert will be available to reserve from October 18, 2023, at:

[www.community.tum.de/vivat-tum](http://www.community.tum.de/vivat-tum)

Tickets are subject to availability. If your reservation is successful, you will receive immediate confirmation via email. Entry to the Vivat TUM Concert is free. However, TUM would gratefully welcome any donations to the TUM University Foundation.

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