

**STUDIES**

Entrepreneurship –  
A Main Focus at the NIT

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NIT Alumni Homecoming  
Weekend

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Joachim Herz Stiftung – A New  
NIT Sponsor

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**NIT Bids 30 Graduates Farewell**

After another challenging academic year, 30 NIT students from 10 countries celebrated their graduation on September 2, 2011 in TUHH's Audimax I. This year's graduates included 23 young engineers who finished their master in Technology Management and 7 students who successfully completed their MBA studies.

The evening was opened by Dr. Christoph Jermann, CEO of the NIT, and Dr. Ralf Grote, Chief of Staff at the TUHH Presidents Office. The diplomas were handed over by Dr.-Ing. Gottfried von Bismarck, Chairman of the NIT Supervisory Board, and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bauhofer, President of the NIT. The special guest of the evening was Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt, Second Mayor and Senator for Science and Research of the

scholarship from Leopold Kostal GmbH & Co. KG. The graduates also presented their own award, honouring the NIT professor who was voted best at the end of the academic year. The recipient was Professor Karl J. Kock of the IE Business School Madrid, voted their best teacher. Professor Kock, who has taught strategy at the NIT since 2006, was given a 1.1 grade by Class 11 students.



*Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt, Vivek Ghewari*



*Handover of diplomas*

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, who delivered the commencement speech. She focused on the unique combination of the double degree program and stressed the importance of the NIT's mission to educate responsible leaders to face the challenge of actively shaping the economy and financial markets for the future.

Senator Stapelfeldt also presented this year's DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Award for the best international student. In recognition of his academic achievement and his intercultural breadth of horizon, the prize, worth EUR 1,000, was awarded to top graduate Vivek Ghewari, 24. Originally from India, Vivek Ghewari was able to study at the NIT thanks to a

Moreover, a number of entertaining student contributions were designed to make it a special evening. The ceremony started with a song performed by a student band. Furthermore, two show reels and outstanding statistics about NIT student life were presented and guaranteed a good laugh among the audience. The NIT/TUHH student band gave a striking performance of the song Time of my Life (Green Day). Class 11 graduates Viola Pokman and Sreevatsa Praveen gave an inspiring speech and later in the evening alumni Aditi Ramdorai, Class 07, and Qikai Zhang-Horiot, Class 03, spoke about their network and its assets.

After Dr. Jermann had welcomed the incoming Class 13, a reception in the NIT foyer – kindly sponsored by Lufthansa Technik – provided an appropriately relaxed end to this special day.

**DATES & EVENTS 2011**

- October 8/9, 2011**  
Welcome Weekend Class 13
- October 9, 2011**  
International Education Fair  
St. Petersburg
- October 18, 2011**  
Welcome Evening Class 13
- October 21/22, 2011**  
Hamburg Welcome Days
- October 22/23, 2011**  
China Education Expo Shanghai
- November 4/5, 2011**  
Nordmetall Alumni Meeting at  
Schloss Hasenwinkel
- December 2, 2011**  
Mentors' Advent Meeting



**STUDIES**

# Entrepreneurship – A Main Focus at the NIT

A new specialization opportunity starting in the 2011/2012 winter semester will make studying at the NIT even more attractive for prospective students and NIT graduates more attractive for companies.

Sandro Rabbiosi had an idea and made it the subject for his NIT master's thesis on *Entrepreneurship as a Specialization Option in Management Studies at the NIT*. Rabbiosi found good arguments for his idea and swiftly obtained approval and encouragement from his professors, the alumni and the NIT administration. The new specialization option is intended to enable students to gain practical knowledge and experience of planning new business activities in technology enterprises.

Körber AG sponsored Rabbiosi during his studies at the NIT and was able to offer him a full-time job after he graduated with an excellent double-degree qualification. Today, he is a member of the Business Development and Technology department at Körber AG, where he does just that: tracing, testing, adopting and implementing entrepreneurial innovation ideas.



*Initiator Sandro Rabbiosi*

Plans are now in full swing to offer the new NIT class an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurial thinking, starting in autumn 2011 – either for a future career such as Sandro Rabbiosi's or for establishing a business start-up.

Specifically, this means that new students can choose, alongside the core subjects, between two optional modules: Leadership and Technology Management and the new module Entrepreneurial Management. If they opt for the latter, the students will have to successfully complete five workshops with themes such as Idea Generation, Success Factors in a New Business Activity, or Growth Strategies, but also Corporate and Social Entrepreneurship specifics. With the support of coaches with practical experience, the students will develop

their own business plan in teams. This will also constitute their master's thesis. To top it all, the teams will be able to present their business ideas to companies and investors at a closing Venture Fair, which will be held on the premises of one of NIT's industrial sponsors.

Professor Matzen (Thomas J.C. Matzen GmbH) has generously agreed to finance the first run of this project. Later on, NIT industry partners who wish to have their business ideas developed by an entrepreneurship team will be involved in financing this new part of the program. And Rabbiosi? Maybe in two years' time he will be a member of a jury that assesses NIT students' business plans...



THOMAS J.C. MATZEN GMBH

## NIT Welcomes New Students!

The NIT sends a warm welcome to all new students joining Class 13. We are looking forward to 33 new students from 17 countries and 5 continents. You are all about to become members of a distinguished community of scholars. We are delighted that from now on you will be a part of the NIT community.

## NIT Student Wins DECHEMA Student Award

NIT student and Hamburg University PhD student Jan-Hendrik Redmann, Class 12, has won the DECHEMA Student Award. Redmann received it at the ProcessNet annual conference in Berlin on September 25, 2011, for his diploma thesis in technical chemistry. The award is made annually to six students who complete their study programs with very good grades most efficiently in especially short times. The NIT is delighted to congratulate him most cordially!



**ALUMNI**

# NIT Alumni Homecoming Weekend

From September 2 to 4, the NIT Alumni Network hosted its sixth Homecoming Weekend event which was sponsored by NXP Semiconductors Germany GmbH and Procter & Gamble. The weekend kicked off on Friday when current alumni joined the graduation ceremony and reception of Class 11 to welcome the new NIT graduates to the alumni network. Aditi Ramdorai, Class 07, Chair of the Board of the NIT Alumni Network, and Qikai Zhang-Horiot, Class 03, directly addressed Class 11 and all their guests with words of encouragement.



Saturday morning saw the weekend move on to a more formal note when the network staged its annual General Assembly. Andreas Lange, Class 08, stepped down and Ana-Yolanda Sianez Gonzales, Class 10, took over as Treasurer. Board Chair Aditi Ramdorai, Class 07, and Vice Chair Diana Lima, Class 10, stay on in their functions. Heike Bläsig, NIT's Associate Director Fundraising & Alumni, presented an overview of current and future developments at NIT.



*Board Chair Aditi Ramdorai, Class 07, and Vice Chair Diana Lima, Class 10, welcome the guests*

A panel of guest speakers joined the event on Saturday afternoon for a workshop on alternative energies. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Willner, HAW, Dr. Robert Spallino, Renewable Energy Technology Center, Dipl.-Ing. Julia Gottwald, HAW, Peter Lindlahr, hySolutions, and Jan Rispens, Erneuerbare Energien Hamburg Clusteragentur shared their knowledge and advice from different perspectives on this subject, promoting keen interested questions and a lively discussion.

On Saturday night the third annual Alumni Ball was held, this time at the Kaffeerösterei in Hamburg's Speicherstadt. Alumni and students from all class years gathered along side Dr. Christoph Jermann, CEO of NIT, Daphna Horwitz and Heike Bläsig to give a festive welcome to the newest alumni of Class 11. Guest of honor, Dr.-Ing. Gottfried von Bismarck, Chairman

*On Saturday night the Alumni Ball was held at the Kaffeerösterei in Hamburg's Speicherstadt.*

of the NIT Supervisory Board, wove a spell over the audience while bringing the program full circle to sustainability, but from a fascinating social and emotional perspective. Guest speaker Prof. Dr. Michael Braungart, founder and head of EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH, remained true to his slogan "We

do not want sustainability, because that is not enough. We want real quality." In his speech he led the present NIT community from down cycling via eco-effectiveness and design chemistry to the absurd palm oil consumption in the so-called western world.

However, once the dance floor was opened, the party started and everybody enjoyed it way into the morning hours.

On Sunday morning the strong and the brave ventured out again for the weekend's closing event the Career Brunch. Sleep-deprived but nonetheless motivated alumni shared their experiences with fellow NIT graduates on how to get off to the right start after the NIT.





## SPONSORS

# Joachim Herz Stiftung – A New NIT Sponsor



*Petra Herz, Chair of the Foundation's Executive Board*

Starting in winter semester 2011/12, the Joachim Herz Stiftung is sponsoring Alexander Soltani from Canada and Ana Christina Agüero Murillo from Costa Rica by granting each of them a scholarship for a double master's degree program. Petra Herz, Chair of the Foundation's Executive Board, said: "We are delighted to contribute towards the international education of these two students. One of the aims of

our foundation is to help young people gain new experiences and to broaden their horizons." The Joachim Herz Stiftung promotes education, science and research in economics, law, science and medicine. A focus of its program activities is on education and personality development. The foundation was established in the summer of 2008 and owes its existence to the late Hamburg entrepreneur Joachim Herz and his wife Petra.

[www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de](http://www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de)



## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

### New Fundraising and Marketing Assistants

Since July, **Christoph Müske** has worked part-time in fundraising for the NIT. An orchestra percussionist by profession, he has worked as a freelance musician and is looking forward to gaining insights into fundraising and foundations at the NIT.

**Dörthe Grötsch** has since August 2011 assisted the NIT with her experience in marketing and event management as a full-time marketing and public relations assistant. A cultural studies spe-

cialist, she has since March 2011 also studied part-time for a master's degree in marketing and sales.

Since September, **Elena Stirbu** has worked part-time as an assistant in the NIT's Alumni Department. Alongside her work on a PhD in sociology, her alumni work consists mainly of administrative tasks, database maintenance, and organizing events.

### New NIT Trainee

**Stefan Schell**, who passed his university entrance exams after two years at a further education college, has worked since September as an office communications trainee at the NIT.



*Christoph Müske*



*Dörthe Grötsch*



*Elena Stirbu*



*Stefan Schell*