Short impressions of some

Alumnae and alumni of the OTH Regensburg

December 2023

Klaus Stampfer, Gottfried Schmid, Claudia Lippmann,

Gerald Thonigs, Michael Alt, Tetyana Frank

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As part of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics at OTH Regensburg, the Open Day took place on 21 October 2023. The alumnae and alumni: Klaus Stampfer, Gottfried Schmid, Claudia Lippmann, Gerald Thonigs, Michael Alt and Tetyana Frank took a short journey through the past 50 years at the Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics. On the following pages you will get an insight into this journey through time and detailed information about the alumnae and alumni.

Klaus Stampfer

Klaus Stampfer was one of the first students on the Computer Science programme at OTH Regensburg in 1973. In his 35-year career, he has developed hardware and software for banks and adapters for connecting asynchronous devices such as monitors, printers or PCs to Telekom data networks and has worked as a project manager. There are professions where you never stop learning new things. Computer science is one of them for him.

Career:

1978 - 2013: NCR company in Augsburg
- Project manager

1973 - 1978: OTH Regensburg
- Study computer science

1967 - 1970: Telecommunications office Regensburg
- Training as a telecommunications technician

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): What were your expectations of the computer science degree programme, which was called "Technology and Business"?

Klaus Stampfer: I was familiar with the telephone exchange system with relays and rotary dials, which enabled worldwide communication and worked purely electromechanically. I expected computers to work in a similar way, only electronically. It was with this expectation that I decided to study computer science. With my 4-bit "computer" built from transistors, resistors, capacitors, switches and lights, I already had knowledge of digital electronics. I now wanted to learn how large computers are built. The terms "calculator" and "computer" were used synonymously. I went into the computer science programme with this expectation. I then heard from acquaintances that they were surprised because I was entering the media industry as a technology enthusiast. My acquaintances had associated the term "computer science" with information transfer, press, broadcasting, i.e. journalism. I want to emphasise how little the term "computer science" was used 50 years ago."

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): Were your expectations met?

Klaus Stampfer: Nothing about how computers are built was covered in the first semesters and I only then realised what computer science really is, namely software development, where

the software can be used everywhere and what knowledge from the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, business administration, cybernetics etc. is necessary for this. Back then, computers consisted of large cabinets that were very expensive and the working memory was small. For example, the Siemens 4004/16 computer, which was several metres wide, had a working memory of 16 kB. The smaller and cheaper the hardware and the larger the RAM and the faster the processors became, the more important the software became and the more important it has become today.

Gottfried Schmid

Gottfried Schmid heads the Special Production Sites department in the Factory Integration division of Infineon Technologies AG in Regensburg and is a member of Working Group 1 of the Industry 4.0 platform. He has 38 years of international experience in the field of manufacturing IT in various management positions. During the construction of the front-end factory in Kulim, Malaysia, in 2005/2006, he was responsible for setting up the entire IT infrastructure and application landscape.

Career:

_____ Infineon Technologies
-   Head of Special Production Department

____ __ Siemens

____ Siemens Amberg

1981 - 1985: OTH Regensburg
-   Study computer science

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): Mr Schmid, you have been very successful at Infineon and have held several positions. How important was the computer science programme for you?

Gottfried Schmid: I would like to go into a little more detail when answering this question: After leaving school in 1980, I didn't really have an idea of what I wanted to be professionally. I asked around and read something about computers in an article in the weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT. At the time, I didn't have a precise idea of what you could do with a computer, but the author praised the future prospects of this industry to the skies and said that you had to have a certain affinity for maths. I quickly found out that the degree programmes that dealt with computers were called computer science and that's how I came across the OTH Regensburg. I enrolled, completed a four-week pre-study internship because of the general qualification for university entrance and started my computer science degree in autumn 1981. I really liked the mix of theory and practice. At that time, practice meant programming exercises in Fortran or in assembler (Z80). I was particularly fascinated by computer-to-computer communication. But I also really enjoyed the lectures on databases, computer architectures and operating systems, as I felt that the theory taught there was based on logical foundations. By studying computer science, I further trained my logical thinking and my enjoyment of technology. Both and the willingness to always learn something new and help shape change were and are very important

for my success. I also have a positive attitude towards people, be it the team or the user, and a willingness to communicate. I was then prepared for taking on management tasks at Siemens/Infineon through appropriate training.

Claudia Lippmann

Claudia Lippmann took part in the "Student-owned computers" pilot scheme from 1991 to 1993. An entire study group in the 4th semester was equipped with 74 computers. The students each made a personal contribution of DM 3,000 (40% of the system price) in 3 instalments.

Career:

since 2015: BMW Group IT
- Head of Projects and Systems at BMW Bank
- Head of IT Compliance

2008 - 2014: Unicredit Global Information Services
- Head of IT Programme and Portfolio Management
- Head of Business Relationship Management

2000 - 2008: Capgemini GmbH / Capgemini Ernst & Young
- Principal Consultant

1998 - 2000: debis Systemhaus Munich
- Project manager
- Quality Management Officer (Financial Services)

1992 - 1998: Hypobank Munich
- IT Project Manager (Securities Trading)
- Team leader (Executive Board reporting)

1988 - 1992: OTH Regensburg
- Study computer science

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): PCs had been around since the early 1980s and the Internet was being used more and more commercially. Did this become apparent in everyday life during your studies?

Claudia Lippmann: That didn't turn out to be the case. I wrote my dissertation at grammar school on a typewriter with the help of my mother. I had bought a computer especially for my studies (Intel 80286, amber-coloured display, 640 kB RAM, floppy disk drive). Research was still done in the library, online research was not yet possible, there were no search engines, there were only catalogues. At that time, I didn't have a mobile phone or a private e-mail address, and surfing the Internet was only possible from the university.

Gerald Thonigs

Gerald Thonigs has helped to establish a "Computer Science and Mathematics Colloquium" at OTH Regensburg. Together with other students and professors, he was able to attract speakers from small and large companies for four semesters to give lectures on practical applications of their course content. This allowed valuable experience to be gained beyond the purely technical training. On average, over 80 students took part and each received a certificate. The depth of content was important to the students, which was very pleasing and made a positive impression on some company representatives.

Career:

since 2022: Airbus
- Technical Manager

2016 - 2022: CUONICS GmbH
- Head of Development

2012 - 2016: HELLA
- Software Architect
- Lead Software Architect

2008 - 2012: ASK Industries
- Software Developer

2004 - 2008: OTH Regensburg
- Study of technical computer science

1999 - 2005: University Hospital Regensburg
- Assistant Laboratory Technician

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): You were one of the first people to study Computer Engineering with us. What fascinated you about it?

Gerald Thonigs: Making the physical world accessible to algorithms. The technical depth required for this, which can be experienced very well in the labs at OTH Regensburg, really appealed to me back then and still does today.

Michael Alt

Michael Alt was one of the first dual students at OTH Regensburg.

Career:

2014 - 2015: OTH Regensburg
- Master's programme "Master Applied Research in Engineering Sciences"

2010 - 2014: OTH Regensburg
- Study of business informatics

2009 - 2013: Company Klug GmbH
- Dual study programme

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): Mr Alt, you were one of our first dual students. How did this come about and what experiences have you had?

Michael Alt: The impetus for my dual study programme came from my brother-in-law, who drew my attention to the job advertisement at Klug GmbH integrierte Systeme in Teunz in 2008, shortly before I left school. At that time, the dual study programme was still relatively new compared to today. I didn't know anyone in my circle of friends and acquaintances who was doing a similar programme. Nevertheless, I found the opportunity to combine the Bachelor's degree programme in Business Informatics with a practical component in the company extremely interesting. That's why I applied. Firstly, I completed a year of work experience in a company, which made it easier for me to start studying at OTH Regensburg, particularly in the subject of programming. During the semester break and the practical semester, I worked at the company and at the same time completed my training as an IT specialist for application development, which was part of my dual degree programme. Looking back, this time was both exciting and challenging. I sometimes longed for more free time, especially during the semester holidays. Nevertheless, I had a stable income throughout my studies and the combination of the theoretical foundations I learnt during my studies and the practical experience I gained in the company proved to be extremely beneficial for my professional development.

Tetyana Frank

The example of Tetyana Frank shows that studying can be successfully reconciled with clear private commitments thanks to the flexibility and support of the university.

Career:

since 2019: Josef Witt GmbH
- BI Developer in the area of Digital Solutin

2018 - 2019: BHS Corrugated Maschinen- und Anlagenbau GmbH
- Working student in the Digital Solution department

2017 - 2018: Syskron GmbH
- Working student in project management (software development)

2017 - 2018: Josef Witt GmbH
- Intern in the IM-BI department

2014 - 2019: OTH Regensburg
- Study of business informatics

Professor Dr Frank Herrmann (Dean): OTH Regensburg supports students, some of whom have significant private commitments. This was the case for you, Mrs Frank. What exactly was it and how did you deal with it?

Tetyana Frank: I had my son in the second semester of my studies. I am proud to have completed my studies so successfully. But studying with a small child presented me with a particular challenge. You had to develop quite a bit of organisational talent to manage your studies, child, household and working student job and to find a balance between family and continuing your studies. But where there's a will, there's a way. It is important to emphasise that OTH Regensburg offers a great deal of flexibility and support. From the counselling service and free emergency childcare facilities to voluntary participation (with a few exceptions) in examinations. I was also allowed to take my child to lectures, which was often very helpful and all the professors were fully understanding. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it to go the extra mile. Many thanks to the IM faculty and the OTH for their valuable support and a special thanks from my son for the play corner next to the canteen, he loved it.