How family-friendly is ETH?
**Key figure**

3,815

That is how many ETH employees attended the biennial TogETHer staff party on 26 August 2016 to enjoy the hot summer weather.

www.ethz.ch/together-en

**Study and relax**

In March, a unique group study area was created for ETH members and members of the public in the Green Library in the CHN building. Students were heavily involved in the development process to ensure that the space meets the requirements of the user groups to the best possible extent. The fully glazed work and study room, which is integrated into the library, provides space for ten people and can be divided into two separate areas if necessary. The adjacent lounge offers a place to relax.

www.ethz.ch/green-library

**IT security campaign**

**Protection against phishing**

Phishing is the attempt to obtain confidential data using fake websites, emails or texts. The perpetrators are masters of disguise: they often pretend to be well-known, trustworthy companies in order to fool customers of these organisations. The new “Spot phishing emails” campaign provides practical tips and rules to ensure that emails are sent and received securely.

www.itsecurity.ethz.ch

**Online examinations on laptops**

Together with IT Services, LET is piloting the use of laptops for online examinations by order of the Rector. In the Autumn Semester of 2017, five successful pilot examinations were taken using convertible devices. This means that online examinations can now be taken in existing classrooms where there are no permanent computer workstations. The project results are set to be incorporated into the regular online examination service as of the Autumn Semester of 2018 in order to increase the number of online examinations at ETH in the future.

www.ethz.ch/online-examinations

**“Rethinking Intelligence”**

At its second appearance at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos – this time with the tagline “Rethinking Intelligence” – ETH Zurich invited media professionals, representatives from business and politics as well as local residents to explore an exhibition and enjoy numerous events. ETH President Lino Guzzella launched the ETH mobility initiative together with SBB (Swiss Federal Railways) and the ANYmal robot dog even managed to get Swiss Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard to join it for a little dance.

www.ethz.ch/eth-at-wef
**Campus Hönggerberg 2040**

Find out first-hand about ETH Zurich’s long-term development plans for the Hönggerberg campus. At an information event for ETH members, Vice President for Human Resources and Infrastructure Ulrich Weidmann will be presenting the objectives and the next steps with regard to planning, as well as explaining key elements such as mobility, open spaces and internal densification.

**Information event:** 4 June 2018, 12 p.m. to approx. 1 p.m., HPH building, room G2.

**Registration:** info.immobilien@ethz.ch

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**On to new worlds!**

A new exhibition will be running at focusTerra until 16 June 2019: *Expedition Solar System – Join ETH Zurich on a research journey into space*. Researchers from ETH and the University of Zurich will be using entertaining comics to explain how and why they are exploring space. Alongside numerous experiments, visitors will also be able to see a model of the InSight Mars lander. The NASA mission starts in May and will be investigating marsquakes and meteorite impacts on Mars using electronics developed at ETH.


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**In the realm of the senses**

The spring edition of the Treffpunkt Science City series was all about the senses of humans, animals and plants. Can I see with my tongue? How do you travel to Nepal if you are blind? And how do plants perceive their environment? For the 10,000 or so visitors, there were countless opportunities to discover fascinating research findings and immerse themselves in the realm of the senses with a programme encompassing lectures, experiments, workshops and talks.

[www.ethz.ch/treffpunkt-en →](www.ethz.ch/treffpunkt-en)

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**Open access to ETH knowledge**

The revised Open Access policy, which the Executive Board put into force on 1 February 2018, states that ETH researchers may publish their work freely in line with the publishing culture in their field. Researchers should also provide open access to their work via ETH’s Research Collection and publishing their work directly in open access journals. ETH Library forms the university’s centre of expertise on matters regarding open-access publishing.

[www.ethz.ch/open-access-policy-en →](www.ethz.ch/open-access-policy-en)

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**Voltage changeover and system testing**

In 2018 the electric power station for the city of Zurich (ewz) will be increasing the voltage of its energy distribution on the Hönggerberg campus. During the changeover to the new voltage (22kV) in September and October 2018 and the subsequent network control system test in January 2019, the power in the buildings will be interrupted for 30-minute periods at scheduled times.

**Information event:** 19 April, 4 to 5 p.m., Siemens auditorium (HIT E 51).

[www.ethz.ch/voltageconversion →](www.ethz.ch/voltageconversion)
How family-friendly is ETH?

“Everything begins and ends with family,” said ETH President Lino Guzzella at the Executive Board’s drinks reception in 2017. But is it really possible to combine top-class research with a fulfilled family life? And can you have a career at ETH if you are a parent?

That’s food!” says Mina, trying in vain to open the plastic bottle which is filled with uncooked pasta. The nursery nurse tells her that it is actually a home-made musical instrument, but the 3-year-old will not be deterred. Confident that she is right, Mina repeats her conviction that the bottle contains food and tries with all her might to unscrew the taped-up lid. Two-year-old Florian stands slightly to one side, watching the scene from a distance. They are both children of ETH employees and, on this particular Friday afternoon, they are attending the Flex Zentrum crèche for the first time.

Since October 2017, ETH members have been able to arrange childcare for their children (aged between 4 months and 7 years) on the Zentrum campus as well as the Hönggerberg site by registering them online at least 24 hours in advance. The project was initiated by Director of Human Resources Lukas Vonesch and Renate Schubert, Head of the Office of Equal Opportunities (Equal!) and the gender delegate to the President of ETH Zurich. “We realised that there was huge demand for a service like this at ETH,” explains Schubert. From the initial idea, it took just five months to set up ETH’s first flexible crèche service. Today, both flexible crèches are extremely popular and they are used extensively by students and employees alike.

“Here, the kids are mini researchers”

kihz Flex is part of the broad range of services offered by the kihz Foundation, a joint venture between ETH and the University of Zurich. The Foundation’s main services include eight regular day-care centres as well as holiday care...
Committed to great childcare: in parent surveys, khz Flex group leader Sharon Rosenberg has been described as attentive, organised, warm and friendly.
and the “kihz Mobil” project, which provides childcare for parents who are attending an ETH event and organises professional nannies for ETH members at short notice.

For Monika Haetinger, the Foundation’s director, the quality of care is the top priority: “The children get to be mini researchers here. We cater to the individual needs of each child and encourage their interests, creativity and curiosity through our programme, regardless of their background, religion or gender,” says Haetinger.

The director also tries to ensure that staff teams are mixed-gender. Almost every kihz daycare centre has at least one male nursery nurse, and at one crèche half of the nursery nurses are male.

Care solutions for different needs
Rather than providing actual daycare facilities, the ETH “Hello Kids!” service point offers comprehensive information on childcare and helps ETH members to find the services they need in this area. Hello Kids! also offers solutions tailored to different needs. Furthermore, the additional costs for the care of babies aged between 4 and 18 months are covered by ETH – with Hello Kids! responsible for managing the payments.

Doctoral and postdoctoral students also receive financial support from the Robert Gnehm Foundation if they have to pay additional childcare costs for their young children when attending international conferences.

According to the Head of Human Resources, however, the financial support is not as important as the flexibility that ETH offers. 28 percent of ETH members work part-time. “I’m not aware of such a high proportion anywhere else,” says the 54-year-old, who came to ETH three years ago. Vonesch is also very open to the idea of staff working from home – a work model that is regularly used by many members of his department.

The demands of caring for relatives
It is now 3 p.m. Florian is colouring in pictures of rabbits with a nursery nurse while Mina is trying to stash as many tennis balls as possible in her dress.

45 kilometres away, at around the same time, Marianne Mandrin – assistant to ETH Rector Sarah Springman – is driving her 79-year-old mother home from a doctor’s appointment. Mandrin has taken the day off today. “The great thing about ETH, and Sarah in particular, is knowing that I can go home straight away if there is an emergency, that I can come in late sometimes or take time off at short notice if necessary,” says Mandrin. “Family first!” is the Rector’s motto. Mandrin has also been able to reduce her workload in order to support her mother, who has been recovering from major back surgery.

There is a feeling in some quarters, however, that there is much less awareness at ETH of the demands of caring for relatives other than one’s own children. Schubert and Vonesch are now putting their heads together to tackle this issue. They want to encourage managers and employees to discuss such situations with openness and trust in order to find efficient solutions together. “This issue affects many ETH members. But unfortunately it remains something of a taboo subject and I understand how that can lead to uncertainty. We are going to intensify
our efforts to tackle this issue, because being able to combine family with a career is about much more than just childcare,” says Schubert.

“Research is like sport”
And ETH already has everything it needs to bring about an improvement in this area. “As long as your work stays up to scratch, ETH offers a huge amount of flexibility in terms of working hours and locations – I have never seen anything like that in the private sector,” says Mandrin, taking her mother’s walking frame out of the car.

Physics Professor Renato Renner agrees that this flexibility is a key factor when it comes to combining family with work. The current ALEA Award winner has lots of parents in his research group and tries to respond to the different needs of his employees and doctoral students with as much flexibility as possible.

For the 43-year-old, becoming a father for the first time while he was a doctoral student at ETH was the best decision of his life. But, he says, it is important to ensure that female doctoral students in particular are not disadvantaged during their maternity leave – they need to be kept informed of everything that is going on and should be able to work on important projects when they return to work. Furthermore, evening meetings should be avoided as far as possible. “Parents often work more efficiently because they have to organise their time more carefully,” says Renner, although he does add: “Top research is like competitive sport. If you take too long a break or reduce your workload too much, you don’t stand much of a chance against the enormous international competition.”

Constantly improving conditions
According to Renate Schubert, the greatest challenge comes when both parents want to maintain a professional career. “We are continually improving conditions at ETH in order to help our members combine a successful career with a fulfilled family life,” says Schubert. In order to do this, the university needs feedback from the ETH members themselves.

“I am very grateful that my wife reduced her workload because of our four children,” says Renato Renner, whose wife is a paediatrician. “If I had done that, I probably wouldn’t be where I am today,” he adds, running for the bus. His two-year-old son’s birthday party starts in 30 minutes, and no work commitment is going to stand in the way of that.

At 5 p.m., following a trip to the crèche playground, it is time for Mina and Florian to go home as well. Because thankfully, everything begins and ends with family – including at ETH Zurich.

Further information
Do you have an idea about how ETH can make it easier to combine work with family? Please send your suggestions to Professor Renate Schubert at equal@sl.ethz.ch

All information for parents [and soon-to-be parents] can be found at www.ethz.ch/parenthood →

All information for ETH members who are caring for relatives can be found at www.ethz.ch/elder-care →
“A definite plus for ETH”

ETH has a unique opportunity to shape its future with new ideas. ETH President Lino Guzzella puts forward the case for using the expansion project ETH+ to make the most of this opportunity.
President Guzzella, ETH Zurich is regularly named as one of the best universities in Europe, if not the world, and is envied for the opportunities it enjoys. With this in mind, why do we need such an ambitious development programme?

Because although your description is correct, it does not represent the whole picture. It is true that ETH’s achievements in teaching and research are highly valued in Switzerland and beyond. But in a world of rapid change, standing still means going backwards. Other universities around the world are evolving at a rapid pace, particularly in Asia, in terms of staff, infrastructure and engagement with important issues for the future. The declared aim of these often young, ambitious institutions is – at the very least – to catch up with the European and American universities that have traditionally occupied the top spots in the rankings. And they are closing in fast. If we do not adapt and respond, we will inevitably fall behind in global comparisons.

In what way is that becoming apparent, in your opinion? We can sometimes be too inward-looking and spend too much time on relatively small-scale issues and problems. This is not the way to keep up with the current dynamic. And that’s not all: the funding ETH receives from the Swiss government and the increase in the number of professorships are not keeping pace with the increase in student numbers and the requirements of teaching and research. In its role as Switzerland’s globally connected hub of expertise, ETH Zurich has a duty to face up to these developments. But that’s enough finger-wagging: Having made savings in the academic departments and at the Executive Board level, we now have a fantastic opportunity to invest in the future of ETH on our own terms. Let’s make the most of it!

As part of the ETH+ initiative and the plans for the future, the Executive Board wants to create a large number of new professorships – possibly running into the hundreds. What will these new recruits be researching and teaching?

That is not a decision for the Executive Board alone – it will be made primarily by our academic community with its expertise and experience. But we – the Executive Board – are confident that ETH+ will produce lighthouse projects which will strengthen our academic expertise and enable us to overcome major social challenges. We will be paying particular attention to the interfaces between the different disciplines because we know that this is where the scientific breakthroughs are to be found.

Are these new appointments also a sign that ETH is aiming for a better staff-student ratio? Yes, ETH is first and foremost a brick-and-mortar university and direct contact between teachers and students is an important part of that. I am confident that ETH+ will bring about a particular improvement in the already high quality of teaching at ETH.

How will the Executive Board ensure that ideas are turned into concrete projects? We are currently running an initial ETH-wide ideas competition with a bottom-up approach, which will remain open until the start of May. All academic and technical/administrative departments can suggest substantial projects, i.e. projects with the potential to tackle major academic and social challenges. We want to tap into the potential of ETH as a whole – the Executive Board welcomes ideas that incorporate suggestions from students and scientific staff.

And how will the project ideas be assessed? There will be various stages. Firstly, a committee will evaluate the ideas. This committee will include the spokesperson for the heads of the departments, the presidents of the Strategy Commission, Research Commission and Teaching Commission and the president of the University Assembly. Other members of these bodies may also be included. The Executive Board will then decide on the implementation of the first ideas in September 2018. This initial iteration cycle will serve as a pilot for subsequent cycles in the next few years.

What sort of projects are likely to receive funding? In order to be considered, a project proposal must go beyond simply building on the status quo, and yet we also need to be able to put it into practice quickly. We also want to see a leverage effect. Think big! A project must increase capacity to a significant extent; for example, in the form of new assistant professorships, technology platforms or centres of excellence. As I said before: the impact of the project should be concentrated on the interfaces between the disciplines and departments and should significantly increase collaboration between different areas. In this way, ETH+ will be a definite plus for ETH.

Imagine you had free rein to submit an idea for ETH+. Which topic would you be most tempted to focus on? ETH+ is not tailored towards specific topics. Our initiative aims to secure ETH’s position as Switzerland’s leading institution for engineering and natural sciences for the future. My main priority is that the ideas should break new ground and explore new avenues.
Ensuring food security, supplying energy, tackling climate change. Humanity is facing a range of complex challenges. Sustainable development provides the solution. ETH Zurich regards promoting sustainable development as both a performance mandate and a standard to live up to. But how can we put this complex abstract concept into practice and bring it into the public consciousness?

“By focusing on our core areas of expertise,” says Reto Knutti, climate physicist and sustainability delegate for ETH Zurich. By which he means optimising the use of research, teaching and the university campus and maintaining a dialogue with the public.

To take one example: students are working together with researchers to study how diners perceive environmentally friendly menus in the ETH canteens, and whether they are receptive to information on the subject. The findings feed into the recently launched Climate Programme, in which caterers commit to achieving concrete targets in order to ensure that campus catering is sustainable. The joint project between ETH Sustainability and the World Food System Center (WFSC) serves as a model for other organisations to follow. The Washington Post even reported on it.

For Knutti, this illustrates clearly how ETH Zurich is integrating sustainability into day-to-day campus life: “It shows how academia, education and campus operations can benefit from one another.”

Knowledge and know-how
Research naturally provides the foundation for all sustainability activities. Numerous ETH academic departments and centres of excellence are working on principles, know-how and solutions relating to sustainability topics. The spectrum ranges from natural resources to the cities of the future, the world’s food supplies, new forms of energy and climate change. This requires solid knowledge of systems. It is no surprise that ETH experts are supporting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or contributing to the Energy Strategy 2050 of the Swiss Federal Council.

ETH is heavily involved in the energy sector in particular, leading three of the eight Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research (SCCERs): supply of electricity, efficiency of industrial processes, and mobility. As energy systems become increasingly decentralised, there is a need for stable control systems for power grids, energy storage devices and new business models. At the Energy Science Center (ESC), specialists in engineering and the natural and social sciences...
are investigating the best ways to produce renewable energies and integrate them into the electricity infrastructure.

Robust, environmentally friendly production systems also play a central role in global food security. At the World Food System Center, agricultural scientists and nutritionists are developing new ways of supplying the world’s growing population with high-quality food while reducing the use of pesticides and resources. These approaches involve biological cultivation methods and greater crop diversity alongside modern plant breeding and digital assistance systems.

ETH researchers are also studying how climate change affects food systems, ecology and the economy. Robust simulations are required to produce forecasts regarding the climate and its consequences for society. The Center for Climate Systems Modelling (C2SM) brings together expertise in climate modelling from various sources. MeteoSwiss, Empa, WSL and Agroscope are all involved in the network platform as well. Their shared goal is to strengthen the predictive skill of climate models on time scales from months to centuries.

Consistency within our own sphere
Credibility requires consistency in word and deed. In order to live up to this standard, ETH has a staff unit dedicated to sustainability. ETH Sustainability reports directly to the President, brings together key players and initiates projects. The university campus, with its research, teaching and operations activities, provides an ideal testing ground: “The campus lets us test new technologies as well as social and economic aspects of sustainability and integrate them into everyday life,” says director Christine Bratrich.

The House of Natural Resources, for example, is made from hardwood and used for research, teaching and demonstration. ETH is not afraid to deal with complicated issues, such as the Mobility Platform’s air travel project, which aims to reduce CO₂ emissions from air travel without restricting employees.

Values to bring about change
The university’s teaching also provides young people with the values, critical attitude and intellectual tools they need to act responsibly in the future. For over 30 years, the environmental sciences degree programme has been teaching methods for understanding environmental systems as a whole. Today the university offers a wide range of Master’s programmes which aim to produce accomplished environmental engineers, spatial planners and experts in energy policy or corporate sustainability. There are also numerous continuing education opportunities.

ETH Week is a relatively new initiative with a huge impact. ETH Sustainability organises the project with different units each time. Students develop possible solutions to social challenges and learn to think creatively across disciplines and cultures. If that doesn’t bring sustainability into the public consciousness, what will?

www.ethz.ch/sustainability →

10 years of ETH Sustainability

The Executive Board set up the ETH Sustainability staff unit in 2008 to increase ETH’s contribution to sustainable development. This unit has brought together many key players and initiatives from the fields of research, teaching and campus development and launched its own projects in order to integrate sustainability into the university’s decisions and actions. ETH Sustainability produces regular reports on ETH Zurich’s sustainability performance from an economic, social and ecological perspective.
Changes to pensions

As of 1 January 2019, PUBLICA is lowering the conversion rate which determines pension levels. What are the consequences for our pensions as ETH members? life answers the key questions.

Text Martin Bornhauser

Will our pensions go down?
The ETH pension plan has agreed upon a number of cushioning measures in order to prevent pension reductions as far as possible. The measures depend on the age of the person in question (on 1 January 2019):
- Over-60s will be guaranteed their vested rights. Their pensions will remain at the same level as today at the minimum.
- People aged between 45 and 59 will receive a credit note for an amount corresponding to their age. This will amount to 11 percent for 59-year-olds, compared to 2.6 percent for 45-year-olds.
- For ETH employees aged at least 45 on 1 January 2019, the savings premium will increase by 2 percentage points. 64 percent of this will come from ETH as the employer; the employees will finance 36 percent in the form of wage deductions.

These measures will help the pension level for all those insured at ETH to remain at at least 96 percent of previous levels. To ensure that this is the case, both the employer and employee contributions will increase as described above.

Why are there no cushioning measures for those under 45?
Because younger people have more time to pay into their pension fund in order to increase their retirement assets and thus compensate for losses. When building up retirement assets, the contributions in the early stages of your career carry much less weight than those later in life. Furthermore, younger people benefit from their own contributions and those of their employer for longer. Other pension funds also set the age limit – determined on a non-mathematical basis – in the context of cushioning measures at 45.

Why are the full compensation measures for over-60s only available if you draw your pension and not if you withdraw the capital?
The measures (contributions) compensate for the lower conversion rate and the resulting lower pension for a particular credit balance. If you withdraw the capital, you are not affected by the lower conversion rate.

Will I receive a credit note even if I change employer?
All ETH personnel who are employed at ETH on 1 January 2019 and are at least 45 years old on this date will receive a credit note. Those over 60 will also be guaranteed their vested rights.

Do I still need to pay more in to keep my pension at the same level?
The higher payments (savings contributions) compensate for the lower conversion rate which is used to determine the pension levels. If interest rates rise on a sustainable basis, pensions can be expected to rise again in the longer term.

How and when will I be informed?
Over-60s will receive calculations regarding their pensions in May 2018. All other employees who are insured at ETH can expect to receive personalised information in 2019.

You can also read the interview with Publica Director Dieter Stohler on ETH’s internal news channel: www.ethz.ch/pension →
Rowing across the Atlantic

Marlin Strub submitted his Master’s thesis to ETH in mid-November 2017 and, one month later, the 26-year-old was sitting in a rowing boat with three colleagues. Their aim was to cross the Atlantic using nothing but muscle power. The Swiss rowing team managed to cross the ocean in just 30 days and came third in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge – the toughest rowing race in the world. “When you’re studying, you’re focusing on yourself, so I relished being able to work in a team and share a common goal as part of this challenge.” Strub comes from a non-academic family. He was very active as a child and enjoyed building machines out of Lego. He then went on to study for a degree in robotics: “It was always a huge privilege for me to study at ETH.” He praises the fact that ETH focuses solely on performance regardless of a person’s social or ethnic background and regards it as a very fair system. Strub now plans to pursue a doctorate – either in Switzerland or abroad. One thing’s for sure: “We’ll be taking on another project like the Atlantic Challenge. We’ve already got some ideas...”.

Text: Karin Köchle  Photo: Florian Bachmann
“You can’t say that, it’s far too provocative!” “That’s too wishy-washy, it has to be clear.” “You’ve crossed a line there!” These were some of the opinions expressed by our project team in the discussions leading up to the Respect campaign. But the aim was clear: we needed a strong message which would provoke discussions. The posters which said things like “Welcome. You nerd.” or “You’re smart. For a woman.” proved to be similarly contentious to begin with. The campaign certainly provoked strong reactions. I was pleased to see that the initial response of “Do we really need this? It goes without saying at ETH!” was replaced over time with “We have to stand up for the values that bind us together.”

One thing quickly became clear: respect concerns everyone – professors, employees and students. ETH cannot turn a blind eye in cases of disrespect – we all need to be observant and take action, because a lack of respect hinders work and cooperation and violates people’s dignity. That’s why, as well as making people think, a campaign can stir people’s emotions. This has encouraged us to focus on the shared values that we are always talking about in the second part of the campaign. By publishing a university-wide Respect Code of Conduct, we want to show how we can create an environment of trust, dialogue and appreciation through clarity and responsibility.

The Code of Conduct, which was drafted in a broad discussion between departments, university groups and the Executive Board, explains the principles that govern our interactions with each other. It describes the point at which behaviour becomes inappropriate. We want people to read the Code of Conduct and then put it into practice: we can all do our bit. The Code of Conduct, which you will have received at the start of April, tells you where you can find support and how you can take action – even if you were “only” a witness to inappropriate behaviour.

Just as at the start of the campaign, you will be seeing posters and stickers around the ETH buildings with slogans where positive and disrespectful statements are separated by a full stop. All new employees joining ETH will be told about the campaign at the welcome events.

I am pleased that ETH is taking a strong stand with the Code of Conduct. What matters, though, is not the document itself but the fact that the values it describes are being put into practice every day: paying attention, being observant, responding, having the courage to say something, taking action when necessary. That is and will remain our goal – now and in the future.

Lukas Vonesch

About the author

Lukas Vonesch has been the Head of Human Resources at ETH Zurich since April 2015 and is heavily involved in the Respect campaign.

www.ethz.ch/respect

OP-ED

25 years of the ETH Big Band

How it all began

Why did I found the ETH Big Band 25 years ago? Because back when I came to ETH as a mechanical engineering postgraduate, I couldn’t find a jazz band to join. I quickly found a few like-minded people, all of them talented musicians, and we got to work. We were soon playing at graduation ceremonies, at the Polyball and at lots of other events of varying sizes. Among the highlights of band life are the tours abroad – for example, on the occasion of SWISS’ first flight to Shanghai with Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, or accompanying official ETH delegations to India and Brazil.

The important thing for me is that the members are able to actively contribute and creatively develop their talents. We are always adding members’ own compositions or arrangements to our repertoire. And I have to say, the standard of musical talent has improved considerably over the years. We now have 20 members, a few of whom have been in the band since it was founded; we tend to see around 2 to 4 changes to the line-up per year. Luckily we are usually able to fill any vacancies pretty quickly.

The fact that the band is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year is definitely down to the support of the Executive Board and the university administration. And of course our fans and loyal concert-goers. Our next performance will be at Jazz im Park (Jazz in the Park) in Irchelpark from 7–9 June, where we will be appearing with other big bands from Switzerland and abroad. You definitely won’t want to miss this unique musical experience!

Christoph Eck, founder and conductor of the ETH Big Band

www.ethbigband.ch
Smart, female – and unbeatable

Child’s play got serious at this year’s WEF: a robotic hand amazed visitors young and old alike by beating everyone at rock–paper–scissors. The secret to the hand’s success? An intelligent camera and a neural network. Neuroinformatics expert Tobias Delbruck’s group developed the technology – but it was his 14-year-old daughter Dee-Dee who actually built the hand. Like many other robotic hands, Delbruck’s was destined to be called Dexter, but Dee-Dee knew immediately that wasn’t the best name. She christened it Dextra, the first female robotic hand – and one that always comes out on top.

http://sensors.ini.uzh.ch →