From “Camp to Campus“ – A Special Start to a New Period of Life

Student camp at Bollmannsruh: 19. - 20.07.2017
Many years ago...what was different compared to today?

We...
- Spent time at the farm
- Worked together in teams
- Had a lot of fun every day
- Were well connected without cell phones, Internet...

GDR students had a “harvest job“ for 4 weeks
Challenges in the department of engineering

- Students are very heterogenous (different education, interests, backgrounds…)
- Few of them live in the THB students residence
- Students live just around the corner and are “disconnected“ (commuters)

More than 20 % are foreign students

It’s both: a challenge and an opportunity
The organisers - courageous, starry-eyed, motivated and “crazy enough”
Conception of the camp – a well-known idea

Knowledge

Engagement

Social skills
Goals of the camp

• Networking (across all study programs)
• Studying together
• Basic knowledge about study programs and campus etiquette
• Developing soft skills through teamwork
• Being active through fitness activities, sport and skill contests
• Having fun and enjoying a BBQ
Surprise, surprise: We’ll meet “somewhere in the middle of nowhere“

...but definitely not at the Hilton
Engagement – organisational commitment

team for press release

budget team

music team

team for facility management
Fitness team: to motivate and coach all students
Competition team: the organisers for fun and action 1/2
Competition team: the organisers for fun and action 2/2
Professors taking part in the action
Campus etiquette and pre-course in mathematics
Serious topics for many student presentations

- What’s electricity and how does it arrive at the socket?
- How does an LED flashlight work?
- How do airplanes fly?
- How does satellite TV work?
- How do 3D printers work?
- What do engineers generally do?
Students explain the engineering topics
Best practice: BBQ team did an excellent job to “save our lives”
These were the champions...

and for the others...

to get better results
Students feedback

I think this trip brought our year together in a very good and relaxed way.

Great start because we had no WiFi everyone had to talk to everyone else.

The beginning of a new phase of life. It is very advantageous to get to know fellow students and lecturers in advance privately and informally.

I think getting started as a first step is very important. The project made it easier for me to meet my classmates and strengthened the teamwork. In addition, I got to know the employees better and gained a very positive impression of them.

... spontaneous ... ingenious ... wonderful
... interesting ... fun ... exciting
... cool/casual ... rich with experiences ... top
... team building ... short ... beautiful
... school trip ... recommendable ... motivating
Summary...

Benefits for students

- Improved social networking across the study-programs
- Easier placement (campus-etiquette, improved soft skills)
- Motivation through fun, success, action, teamwork and challenge
- Higher study satisfaction (improved identification with THB/ dept. of engineering)

Benefits for the THB

- Students know the goals through improved study preparation, personal feedback, first contact with THB-staff
- Bridged social/cultural gap, collaboration between all students
- Less basic/administrative questions
- More study success through interdisciplinary & cooperative learning with fellow students
Lessons learned…and best practice for organisers

1. Ensure proper budget/funding

2. Find motivated staff for an organisation team

3. Don’t underestimate the preparation time and focus on the tasks

4. Mix the student teams by counting off

5. Engage the established team, share the work + be prepared to formulate tasks/goals to point into the right direction
Discussion and open questions

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Quellennachweis

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