

## An Engineer Must Know More Than Just Engineering

Faculty Colloquium on the Occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Ferdinand Redtenbacher



Ferdinand Redtenbacher (1809 – 1863)  
(Picture: Universitätsarchiv Karlsruhe)

**On July 25, Ferdinand Redtenbacher would have become 200 years old. Redtenbacher is not only the founder of scientific mechanical engineering. As a long-time professor (1841–1863) and director of the former Polytechnical School of Karlsruhe, he made the Universität Karlsruhe gain international recognition. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering will celebrate Redtenbacher's birthday with a colloquium on Friday, July 24, 15 hrs, at the Tulla-Hörsaal (building 11.40, Englerstraße 11).**

“Redtenbacher realized very early that an engineer must know more than mere engineering”, underlines Professor Martin Gabi, dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. “For this reason, he put all his efforts into an integrated engineering education”. It was the opinion of Redtenbacher that progress in engineering is essentially based on the synthesis of mathematico-scientific basic knowledge and social competence, on the one hand, as well as on the classical art of engineering and technical skills, on the other.

In 1847, Redtenbacher, together with the chemist Carl Weltzien, established separate professional schools for mechanical engineering and chemistry. Since then, the departments of

**Dr. Elisabeth Zuber-Knost  
Press Officer**

Kaiserstraße 12  
76131 Karlsruhe, Germany  
Phone: +49 721 608-7414  
Fax: +49 721 608-3658

**For further information, please  
contact:**

Monika Landgraf  
Press Office  
Phone: +49 721 608 8126  
Fax: +49 721 608 3658  
E-mail: [Monika.Landgraf@kit.edu](mailto:Monika.Landgraf@kit.edu)

architecture, civil engineering, chemistry, and mechanical engineering have existed in parallel, combined with a basic mathematical education. "This structure was taken over by nearly all technical universities in the following decades", says the head of the Karlsruhe University Archive, Dr. Klaus Nippert. "Hence, Redtenbacher contributed decisively to establishing this type of university."

In the honor of this ingenious engineer and university teacher, the faculty has now rearranged a collection of historic constructive demonstration objects, which were partly created by Redtenbacher himself. This collection will be open to visitors during the day at the Altes Maschinengebäude (building 10.91, Engelbert-Arnold-Straße 4) from July 24.

The invited lecture of the faculty colloquium on June 24 will be presented by Dr. Klaus Mauersberger, director of the art collection of the Technical University of Dresden, who wrote a biography on Redtenbacher's lifework together with Professor Jörg Wauer from the KIT Institute of Technical Mechanics and Professor Francis Charles Moon from the Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. This biography was published in the international journal "Mechanism and Machine Theory". On the occasion of the faculty colloquium, a special edition of the biography in the German language will be displayed.

**Journalists are cordially invited to the colloquium.**

### **Program**

#### **Opening of the colloquium with a birthday cake and coffee**

Welcome by the Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering  
**Professor Dr.-Ing. Martin Gabi**

Address by the Vice-President  
**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Becker**

Ferdinand Redtenbacher –  
Founder of Scientific Mechanical Engineering  
**Invited lecture by Dr.-Ing. Klaus Mauersberger,**  
**Director of the art collection**  
**of the Technical University of Dresden**

Honors  
2008 Ph. D. Student Award  
**Dr.-Ing. Willy-Höfler Ph. D. Student Award**

Ceremony of Awards in the German-French Studies Course 2008  
**L'Oréal Awards**

2008 Graduates Award  
Hand-out of diploma and bachelor certificates

Musical program: **Ensemble Dalel Quartet**

### **Reception**

**The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is the merger of the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, member of the Helmholtz Association, and the Universität Karlsruhe. This merger will give rise to an institution of internationally excellent research and teaching in natural and engineering sciences. In total, the KIT has 8000 employees and an annual budget of 700 million Euros. The KIT focuses on the knowledge triangle of research – teaching – innovation.**

**The Karlsruhe institution is a leading European energy research center and plays a visible role in nanosciences worldwide. KIT sets new standards in teaching and promotion of young scientists and attracts top scientists from all over the world. Moreover, KIT is a leading innovation partner of industry.**

**This press release is available on the internet under [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).**

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