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Press Release of SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern

SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern celebrates its 115th anniversary

SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern proudly celebrated its 115th anniversary on Friday, 1 March 2024. Since its foundation in 1909, SHL has educated, accompanied and formed generations of talent on their way to the pinnacle of the hospitality and gastronomy industry.

SHL's history is characterised by passion, success and a strong commitment to excellence in application-oriented education. The first director, Hermann Bieder, welcomed the first 164 students 115 years ago with visionary words: «Our technical college will become a centre of intelligence, and its power will radiate into the world of the hotel people». Since then, SHL has continuously maintained its charisma and at the same time constantly evolved to successfully keep up with the times and their challenges. «We look back on 115 successful years with great pride and pleasure. Our commitment to the training of future managers and the positive development of our industry is unbroken, and we are looking forward to the coming years full of opportunities», said SHL Director Christa Augsburger on this happy day.

First higher vocational school

In its 115-year history, SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern has reached many milestones. One of these was clearly the recognition of the school by the Swiss government as the first higher vocational school for the hospitality and gastronomy industry in 1989. This recognition by the federal government was by no means a reason to rest on one's laurels. On the contrary: to this day, SHL endeavours to constantly improve the quality of the «Dipl. Hotelier(e)-Gastronom(in) HF» course, to permanently increase the focus on practical skills and to create a pleasant, conducive learning environment on the modern campus in Lucerne.

SHL goes international

With its participation in educational projects around the world and the decision to offer the renowned SHL programme in English, SHL officially became an international school between 2010 and 2020. In September 2019, the first intake of the «Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management» programme started, which is offered in exclusive cooperation with the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Art (HSLU). Today, SHL is also recognised outside the industry as a leading partner for application-oriented hospitality education. Various companies turn to SHL for further education concepts, training and consultancy services in the area of «Best Customer Experience» to improve their customer experience.

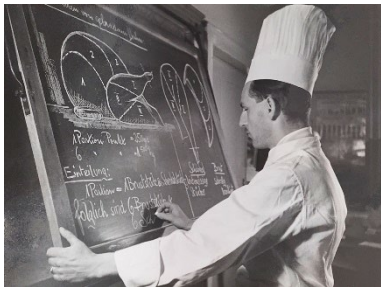
Birthday cake with 115 candles

The celebrations for the 115th anniversary took place on a small scale on the birthday itself. The SHL kitchen team created an impressive, four-metre-long cake for the employees and students - of course with 115 candles, which were personally blown out by SHL directors Christa Augsburger and Timo Albiez with a lot of puffing. During lunch in the «Salt & Pepper» training restaurant, everyone also toasted the legacy and future of SHL with a glass of bubbles. The anniversary will certainly also be duly honoured at the legendary SHL Alumni Party in June 2024.

Podcast episode for the anniversary

As a special birthday highlight, SHL dedicated an episode of its podcast «Bettgeflüster - Backstage Hospitality» to the anniversary. In this special edition, Henni Koch and Wilhelm K. Weber discuss the history of travel and the importance of SHL since 1909, with prominent personalities such as Tobias Ragge, CEO of the HRS Group, Urs Masshardt, President of the SHL Foundation Board, and Kurt Imhof, former and long-standing Director, among the jury. The current management, Christa Augsburger and Timo Albiez, also contribute their perspectives. However, the memories of Hedi and Franco, two alumni who graduated from SHL half a century ago and share their experiences, are particularly moving.

Images (Originals in the attachment)



Legend to image 1:
SHL then



Legend to image 2:
SHL then...



Legend to image 3:
SHL's training restaurant then...



Legend to image 4:
...and now



Legend to image 5:
SHL Club then...



Legend to image 6:
...and now



Legend to image 7:
SHL today: Semester 1 student working in SHL's training kitchen



Legend to image 8:
SHL today: Business administration questions to a real business case are explained



Legend to image 9:
SHL Direction: Christa Augsburger (Director, right) and Timo Albiez (Deputy Director, left)



Legend to image 10:
Four-meter-long birthday cake with 115 candles

About SHL

SHL Schweizerische Hotelfachschule Luzern has been the practice-oriented and innovative educational institution since 1909, paving the way for young, success-oriented students to enter the national and international hospitality industry. As one of the two original Swiss hotel management schools, SHL has played a significant role in shaping hotel management education in Switzerland. Graduates of SHL hold leadership positions in the hotel industry, gastronomy, and other service sectors in Switzerland as well as internationally.

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