

# Editorial

Dear Readers,

New species are spreading across the Wadden Sea in Northern Germany. Marine biologists have discovered bacteria that were hitherto unknown and which influence the climate. At the same time, however, species are dying out at an ever increasing rate - faster than ever before. What sounds like something out of a science fiction novel shapes the daily routine of the scientists at the Institute for the Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM). They are exploring the biological diversity of the Earth's oceans, studying the tiniest living organisms and asking the big question of how much biodiversity our planet needs.

This issue provides further exciting insights into the world of marine research. ICBM director Bernd Blasius and the future director of the new Helmholtz Institute in Oldenburg Helmut Hillebrand talk in an interview about the current challenges and goals in this field. Microbiologist Meinhard Simon explains how *Roseobacter* bacteria help create a healthy climate. And landscape ecologist Michael Kleyer gives a pro-

gress report on a unique project: two years ago he supervised the construction of a group of small artificial islands in the Wadden Sea which he and his team are using as an open-air laboratory.

Understanding how wind works is the goal Oldenburg University's turbulence researchers have set themselves. They are studying the interaction between atmospheric currents and wind energy systems. In a picture series we show the scientists at work - modelling, creating simulations and making measurements.

Our EINBLICKE reportage looks at diversity in the classroom. Special needs educators Clemens Hillenbrand and Carolin Reinck go back to school to find out how inclusion can be put into practice with successful results. Their extraterrestrial colleague Lubo gives them a helping hand.

Mathematician Peter Ruckdeschel proves how versatile statistics are, and how close to our everyday lives. The statistician uses his expertise in many

different domains - including crime investigations. Mark Siebel is another expert with numbers, but he applies them in a different area altogether. In addition to thought experiments the philosopher uses empirical methods to find answers to questions in his field.

„Hands off the Steering Wheel“ - Frank Köster is convinced that this will soon be the reality on Germany's motorways. The computer scientist is developing solutions for automated and integrated driving. In this issue you can read about why he represents both basic research and the testing of these new technologies at the University.

And last but not least we have our „Globetrotting Scientists“ section, which features reports on the various missions and activities of Oldenburg scientists who have been abroad recently.

We wish you a most pleasurable read!

Yours,  
the EINBLICKE editors.

