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EDITORIAL

Hello Alumni,

We hope this issue of the Alumni Letter finds you all well. The Graduate School continues to be a busy and changing place.

Applications to the graduate school continue to increase each year. Last year more than 1100 prospective students submitted applications to the graduate school. In October we welcomed 94 new students from 24 different countries.

We hope you find the Alumni Letter both interesting and useful. We'd like to keep you informed about the school and its alumni so please feel free to contact us if you have some information to share.

Your Graduate School Team:

Prof. Lothar Schuessle, Prof. Rainer Fischer, Prof. Torsten Schneider, Prof. Peter Treffinger, Ulrike Nordau, Marlies Pollet, Alexandra Raunig, Lydia Schindler, Vera Vanié, Silvia Willmann

NEWS

PLANS FOR A NEW BUILDING IN OFFENBURG

At a press conference held on campus September 16, 2010 Finance Minister Willi Stächele announced the readiness of Baden-Wuerttemberg to erect a new building on the campus of Offenburg. He pledged to increase the currently planned funding by an additional 3.4 million euros thus bringing the total planned spending to about 6.8 million euros.

The planned building will have a floor space of approximately 2000 square meters and will have classrooms and offices for faculty and staff.

The new building will help the University to continue its improvements and to accommodate the increasing number of student both applying and attending the school. In the last ten years, the number of applicants has tripled and the number of students more than doubled. In the winter semester 2010 the number of students exceeded 3,000 for the first time.

TEACHING AWARD GOES TO OFFENBURG

The Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science regularly gives teaching awards in five categories. This year's 50,000 euro prize for "best teaching at a university of applied sciences" went to Offenburg.

Specifically, the prize was awarded to the faculty working on Schluckspecht project: Ulrich Hochberg, Uwe Nuß, Werner Schröder und Heinz-Werner Kuhnt.



The "Schluckspecht" project brings together students, teachers and industrial partners from various disciplines who work together to develop, produce, publicize, and race a low energy vehicle. The team regularly participates at the Shell Eco-marathon (a competition for cars with the lowest possible fuel consumption), where it has already received several awards.

PHD OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECM STUDENTS VIA "SMALL-SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS"

In order to provide more varied career paths and opportunities for our graduates Prof. Dr. Treffinger has arranged for a "cooperative graduate school" (Promotionskolleg). Known as "Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems" (abbr. KleE) it is an interdisciplinary graduate school project within the Centre for Renewable Energy (ZEE), in which the University of Applied Sciences Offenburg, University Freiburg and the Fraunhofer Institutes ISE and IPM are participating. The cooperative graduate school provides twelve Ph.D. topics covering four different research areas, "social science and society", "energy converters", "economic sciences", and "systems and grid". The cooperative graduate school fits perfectly with the energy focus of University of Applied Sciences Offenburg, providing an opportunity for Master students to continue with doctoral studies."

SPEAKING SEATRAIL

A joint project "The Speaking Seatrail" of our professors in CME Lothar Schuessle, Tobias Felhauer and Andreas Christ was nominated for the Crystal Cabin Award, the only international award for excellence in aircraft interior innovation.

The Speaking Seatrail is a technological study about the architecture of an innovative communication system that perfectly supplements an in-flight entertainment system. The key innovation is using essential airframe structures, such as seat rails, to transfer data in the form of high frequency electromagnetic waves through a waveguide incorporated in the rails.



Data transfer rates of more than 10 Gbit/s make the Speaking Seatrail ready to supply the data volumes required by next generation entertainment systems like high definition (and/or 3D) video and high speed internet access to the passenger seats.

INTO THE SKY - HELI OVER 4500 METER

Professor Dr. Werner Schröder reported in "campus" that the autonomous helicopter project has set an unofficial world record. Their model helicopter achieved an altitude of 2500 meters above the ground (4500m above sea level). This tops the record set by Stanford University for unmanned aerial vehicles in the under 5 kg class (2177 m).



Practical applications of the technology such as search and rescue and aerial photography are being developed. If financially possible, the group is hoping to make an official attempt at the world record next year.

NEW STRUCTURE AND AKKREDITATION OF ECM

In order to keep the ECM degree relevant to changing conditions in the energy sector a thorough analysis of the actual situation has been performed. Based on the analysis, the master's degree program Energy Conversion and Management (ECM) has been re-shaped into the following core modules: "Energy Economics 1 and 2", "Energy Conversion 1 and 2", "Energy Systems 1 and 2", "Project Planning of Energy Facilities", and "Languages and Personal Skills". Energy Economics 1 and 2 contains mandatory courses. The importance of economics in the energy sector is underlined by the creation of a new professorship at University of Applied Sciences Offenburg covering this area. Another highlight of the program is the mandatory case study "Project Planning". The new ECM concept has been discussed with the accreditation agency and has been approved. Keeping in mind the continual changes in science and industry the frequent reconsideration of study programs is a requirement and a part of the success.

FIRST STUDENTS GRADUATED IN MPE

After a long development process, the first students in the new international master's program "Process Engineering" (MPE) began their studies in March 2009 at our partner university in Olsztyn / Poland. MPE is designed as a three-semester course, with two theoretical semesters and one semester for writing the Master's thesis. On October 29th 2010 the first graduates of the MPE program received their diplomas. We congratulate the graduates, the administration, and the staff for successfully overcoming many obstacles and achieving their goals.



INTEGRATED LIBRARIES

In late 2009, the University Libraries of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Tübingen and Ulm, the state libraries of Karlsruhe and Stuttgart and the universities of Baden-Wuerttemberg chose the aDIS system supplied by the company a|S|tec as part of a European call for a new integrated library system. By the end of 2011 all participating libraries will have migrated to the new system.

Offenburg's library has been operating with the new system since mid-August as a pilot project. At the moment not all functions are available, but ultimately, the library user will be able to use the following functions:

- Export the book data into bibliographic management programs
- Display availability data in the search results list
- Storage of personal search profiles
- Review of media
- Search History
- Wish List - Order List
- RSS Feed

Not only current students, but alumni will also benefit from this project as they are entitled to have access to the library.

CREATION OF NEW WEBSITE

The graduate school is currently in the process of creating a new website. It is planned to include pictures of and comments about the programs by our alumni.

If you would be willing to help us by sharing your feelings about the program you attended please send an email to lydia.schindler@hs-offenburg.de

EVENTS

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW STUDENT RESIDENCE IN OFFENBURG

The opening ceremony for the new student residence at Zaehringerstrasse took place on September 24th 2010, after only eleven months of construction.

About 2.7 million euros were spent during the construction with 440,000 euros coming from Baden-Württemberg. The town of Offenburg helped with the search for land, planning and facilitation of the project.

The four-story house has a total living area of 1,270 square meters. Its two, four, and five bedroom apartments provide accommodations for a total of 55 students. The rooms have parquet floors and are equipped with the latest internet and telephone technologies. The environmentally friendly building also maintains a cogeneration plant that is operated with biogas. And the location near the university and the town center are of course ideal.



LOTTERY FOR WINTER CLOTHES

The Snow Excursion enjoys greater popularity with each successive year. Every year in February the Graduate School organizes a weekend in the "Berner Oberland" in Switzerland for the international master and exchange students who are looking forward to this event with great enthusiasm. Common activities like sledding and snow shoe hiking, in front of the wonderful mountain panorama, belong to the highlights of this excursion. The word-

of-mouth recommendations from previous participants resulted in a very high number of participants in 2011.



Even the most beautiful Snow Excursion isn't such great fun if you are trembling in a light leather jacket at an altitude of 2000m! Knowing this from experience, the idea was born to organize a lottery for winter clothes. Members of the Senior Service and employees of our University rummaged through their wardrobes and donated some of their old ski-wear or other types of warm clothing. In form of a lottery these clothes and accessories like caps, gloves, scarves etc. changed hands quickly. Now, warmly equipped with ski trousers, anoraks and warm sweaters, the students enjoyed the Snow Excursion 2011.



IMPRINT

IMPRINT: University of Applied Sciences, Germany

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