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## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

We hope this issue of the Alumni Letter finds you all well. The end of the winter semester is almost here and we would like to share some information about the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences with you.

In particular, in this issue we would like to inform you about the upcoming **Alumni Event** planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July. We hope that many alumni will be able to attend. Please see the events section on page 3 for more information.

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 Schuessele, Prof. Rainer Fischer, Prof. Torsten Schneider, Prof. Axel Sikora, Prof. Peter Treffinger, Ulrike Nordau, Marlies Pollet, Alexandra Raunig, Lydia Schindler, Izabela Sosnik, Vera Vanié, Silvia Willmann*

## PREFACE

### FROM APPLICATION TO GRADUATION

In 2011 the Graduate School welcomed 101 new students from all around the world: 22 new CME students, 24 ECM, 22 MPE, and 33 IBC students began their studies in the winter semester 2011/2012. They were selected from of a total of 1.386 applicants.

Seventy-five students received their master's degrees at the two graduation ceremonies in 2011. We welcome them to the International Alumni Community of the Graduate School!



Graduation Ceremony in October 2011

## NEWS

### GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW CME DIRECTOR

Professor Dr. Lothar Schüssele, director of the international master's program "Communication and Media Engineering" since its inception in 1998, has turned over leadership of the program to a new professor.

Under Professor Schüssele's leadership, the CME program was recognized in 2008 by the DAAD and "Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft" as one of the best international master's programs in Germany. They awarded it the title "TOP 10 International Master's Degree Courses made in Germany". Professor Schüssele will continue to lead

the school towards continued and further internationalization as the director of the Graduate School and the International Competence Center.



Taking over from Prof. Schüssele as the new director of the CME program is Dr. Axel Sikora. In September 2011 he was appointed professor to the Chair for Embedded Systems and Communications Electronics at Offenburg University of Applied Sciences.

Dr.-Ing. Axel Sikora

Before coming to Offenburg, Dr. Sikora spent 12 years in Lörrach working as a professor and study program director at the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University, and at various activities in the telecommunications and semiconductor industries.

He has gained extensive international experience through his activities as the contact for a Japanese semiconductor company, exchange programs with European, Asian, and African universities, and European R&D projects (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programmes, Artemis).

Dr. Sikora looks forward to the challenges of his new position: "CME was the first international master's course in Offenburg and has special significance to me. Also, I am excited by the opportunity to work with students from around the world and thereby get to know their cultures. Dr. Schüssele has collegially prepared this transfer and I look forward to working with him and ICC colleagues, and to many contacts, lectures, projects and activities with the students."

## NEW MBA PART-TIME PROGRAM STARTED IN OCTOBER



The university campus Gengenbach

Following the successful accreditation by the FIBAA (in 2010) – the first group of part-time MBA students began their studies in October 2011. The program focuses on general management and the majority of the 16 new students are currently working in medium sized companies.

## NEW WORD DISTANCE RECORD

In August 2011, the University's experimental vehicle "Schluckspecht" set the new world distance record for for a battery-powered vehicle.

The record setting trip took place at Bosch's test track in Boxberg. Four drivers took turns driving the vehicle as its journey was documented by a camera mounted on a chase vehicle and monitored by the independent test company TÜV Süd. During the 36 hours and 12 minutes travel time, "Schluckspecht E" traveled a distance of 1631.5 km, significantly surpassing the previous world record of 1003 km set by the Japan Electric Vehicle Club.

Project leader Professor Ulrich Hochberg was proud of the team's success and remarked that it is a sign of the high levels of teaching, research, and development at the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences.



The „Schluckspecht“-Team 2011

## RESEARCH ROCKETS AND BALLOONS

The REXUS/BEXUS (Rocket/Balloon-borne Experiments for University Students) program allows tertiary students from across Europe to carry out scientific and technological experiments on research rockets and balloons.

Each year, two rockets and two balloons are launched, carrying up to 20 experiments designed and built by student teams. Daniel Stork, a student at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information technology, recently took part in a REXUS project. In addition to receiving school credits, Daniel was also able to participate in the planning, testing, assembly, and final launch of the rocket. More information about the REXUS/BEXUS program is available at <http://www.rexusbexus.net/>.

## EVENTS

### ALUMNI EVENT ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

We would like to invite you to come to Offenburg University on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July to enjoy an interesting and joyful time with your fellow alumni.

On the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> we are planning a Get-Together at a restaurant here in Offenburg. The morning of the July 20<sup>th</sup> is reserved for your presentations and workshops. We look forward to alumni presentations. If you would like to make a presentation, please contact us so that we can plan a schedule and support. Sharing your knowledge and experience will benefit both you and your fellow alumni!

On the afternoon of July 20<sup>th</sup> we will join the summer festival of the university so that you will have the chance to meet today's students and staff in a very nice and open environment.

Please save the date and let us know your ideas and your participation!

### INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2011

The 20th International Evening was held in the auditorium of the university on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. More than 400 people came to see presentations from 11 different countries.

Students from Mexico, Thailand, Poland, Venezuela, Pakistan, India, Brazil, Spain, Turkey and Azerbaijan had prepared power point presentations, videos, and showed colorful dances from their home countries.



Presentation of Indian Students at the International Evening 2011

The student group from Egypt made a different type of presentation. Instead of showing popular places of interest and providing insight into traditional culture, their presentation focused on "Arab Spring". They showed touching photos of the Egyptian protests accompanied by the song "Freiheit" ("Freedom") by the German band "Die Söhne Mannheims".

The audience responded with enthusiastic and sustained applause for their extraordinary contribution to the evening.

After the presentations, many stayed to enjoy the luscious buffet prepared by the International students.



Buffet at the International Evening 2011

## PORTRAITS

### TRINATIONAL PROGRAM OPENS NEW PERSPECTIVES ON TOPICS AND DOORS TO THE WORLD

Nadezhda Druzhinina is one of four graduates to finish the trinational study program at the end of the summer term in 2010.

The 29-year-old Russian came to Offenburg in 2006, to begin what was then a binational program in Electrical and Information Engineering at the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences and the IUT de Haguenau. She was looking for a suitable technical program that would utilize both her French and German language skills.



Nadezhda Druzhinina



Today, students in the trinational program first spend two semesters at the IUT Haguenau, followed by two semesters in Offenburg, and finally two semesters at the Swiss University in Neuchâtel. Nadezhda's study was limited to France and Offenburg now has two degrees, Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie and Licence in France and a bachelor's degree in Germany.

Nadezhda says that her schedule was exhausting but exciting, and that the study program "opens new perspectives on topics and doors to the world". Another advantage of the program was that she was able to improve her cross-cultural competence and to look at things from a different perspective. Furthermore, her internship at Hekatron helped her to improve her flexibility and communication abilities with other people.

Nadezhda is planning to continue studying to obtain a master's in electrical engineering and information technology at Offenburg University of Applied Sciences.

#### TURKISH WEDDING IN ANTAKYA

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2011 two former CME students, Özlem Latife and Gökhan Yüksel, tied the knot in the groom's hometown of Antakya.



Wedding of Özlem Latife and Gökhan Yüksel

Gökhan graduated in November 2009 and Özlem in October 2011, just before their wedding. Among the wedding guests were 8 people that they knew from their time in Offenburg.

In addition to the extraordinary Turkish hospitality, the group was also impressed with the very interesting town of Antakya and its sites such as the cave church of St. Peter (St. Peter's Grotto), the old town, and the Antakya Roman Mosaics Museum

(with the second largest collection of Roman mosaics in the world).

The highlights of the trip to Turkey however were the henna evening on the eve of the wedding and the wonderful wedding festivities (with about 350 guests). It was a celebration which will never be forgotten!

#### IMPRINT

**IMPRINT:** Offenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

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