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**EDITORIAL**

Hello,

Spring for us means not only getting finally rid of jacket, scarves and gloves, enjoying the sunshine and green landscape again, but it is also the season for checking the applications and deciding on who will get the chance of taking up the Master Studies in autumn.

Wherever we look and whatever we listen to, the word "crisis" resounds throughout the land. Lost jobs, lost assets for having invested in stocks and even more proposals for solution.

Invest in your career and you can only win – We are happy that we have already received lots of applications for the next term and - it's always nice to see –numerous upon your recommendation.

As one of the essential elements of our Master Programs is the very international student body that comprises of around 45 countries, we are always grateful if you talk about your study experiences and promote our programs in your home country. If you know where and how to spread information to prospective students, please let us know. We can also provide you with posters and other information materials.

But first of all, some information for you.....  
 Enjoy reading this alumni newsletter edition.

Your Graduate School Team:

Prof. Lothar Schuessle, Prof. Rainer Bender, Prof. Rainer Fischer, Prof. Torsten Schneider, Prof. Peter Treffinger, Ulrike Nordau, Marlies Pollet, Alexandra Raunig, Irmela Truedinger, Silvia Willmann

**NEWS****WINTER SEMESTER STARTED**

68 new students have started this winter semester their studies in one of the international Master Programs coordinated by the Graduate School. Students from India and Turkey form the largest groups, however, we could welcome incomings from countries like Bolivia, Belarus or from far-away down-under.

**NEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT**

Once international students have completed their studies at a German university, they will be permitted to work in Germany in an employment commensurate with their training without being subject to a prior assessment of precedence . Foreign students, who are not nationals of an EU member state are permitted to look for a job in Germany for a period of one year. If they do find employment,, they'll be given a residence permit restricted to this employment. After two years' employment or three years' residence they will be entitled to a work permit without being restricted to a specific company. For further details, look at [www.fachkraefte-bw.de](http://www.fachkraefte-bw.de)

**AMONG THE TOP 10 OM GERMANY**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Foundation for German Science) have selected CME among the Top 10 of the International Master's Degree Courses in Germany and awarded the quality label. Both institutions recognized our study program for its special innovative concept, high quality teaching and a high degree of internationalisation.

**PRACTICE AND THEORY – THE CLOSE DISTANCE**

In 2000, I earned my bachelor degree in communication and electronics in Beirut A. University, since then I took the right choice to join the master degree program “CME” in Offenburg. Many doors opened in front of me to deepen my knowledge and earn good experience in the field I studied.

“ASIC Design Center” and “Circuit Design Lab” were the keys of my success. The close distance between theory and applied sciences in our University in Offenburg shorted the big gap that a student faces between theory in study and practice in Industry.

In 2002, I got the master degree in Offenburg. With this degree I enrolled later as a Ph.D student at Karlsruhe University and at the same time as a research engineer at “ASIC Design Center” in Offenburg University. I am expecting to finish my doctoral degree “Dr. Ing.” by the end of this year with an experience of 5 years in microelectronic fields.

Offenburg, to me, was a good compromised solution to continue my PhD at Karlsruhe and to work in ASIC Lab in Offenburg. This combination led me to link between theory and practice. As a result, I am pleased to verify my work on IC chip that I underwent all its phases till it existed as a key component for ePille® project.

I have to admit the good relation and support I found it here, from the rector and passing through all the faculty members, till the students that I supervised their projects and thesis. The relation between professors and students is very close and admirable where they are ready to help in everything. Moreover, the laboratories are fulfilled and equipped perfectly in the most advanced way.

I spent one of my best period times in Offenburg. It is a comfortable town, full of green pastures and wonderful scenes, specially the Kinzig river and the lake. This provides the researchers and students with the normal and optimistic situations to live and study.

Nidal Fawaz, M.Sc., [www.asic.fh-offenburg.de](http://www.asic.fh-offenburg.de)

**EXTRAORDINARY MASTER THESIS**

The Fernseh- und Kinotechnische Gesellschaft e.V. ( Society for television and cinema technologies) has awarded a price to CME graduate Dominique Hoffmann for its Master Thesis “Implementation of a Virtual Studio

**THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL**

This winter semester the Hochschule Offenburg organizes together with the Wirtschaftsregion Offenburg/ Ortenau for the x-time the “FORUM”, a series of talks and lectures. Dedicated to the theme “International Management with regional roots” the FORUM focuses on the challenges of the internationalisation and the role of the regional roots. Intercultural competence, SME from Baden-Wuerttemberg in Asia, buildup of an international sales-organization, just to mention some titles. Details can be found on the University's website: [fh-offenburg.de](http://fh-offenburg.de)

**ALUMNI INTERNATIONAL TABLE IN OFFENBURG**

After the nice experience of spending the celebration weekend together in June, the idea was born to start up with an regular alumni international table. Alumni living in Offenburg and region interested in a regional meeting,

**GRADUATE SCHOOL PRESENTS ITS MASTER-PROGRAMS IN SOUTHEAST-ASIA**

Indonesia is target country of our marketing activities in the second half of 2008. From 31<sup>st</sup> October to November 6<sup>th</sup> Prof. R. Fischer will visit Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Surabaya to present our International Master Programs. We would like to thank you for your numerous replies on our e-mail and your offer to support us on the European Higher Education Fair in Jakarta on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Like this, Jakarta seems to get location of a big alumni Offenburg meeting on these days.

**NEW ALUMNI DATABASE – FILL IN YOUR PROFILE NOW!**

We are glad to inform you that the new alumni database created with the support of the German Academic Exchange Service is online. It is open to everybody who has successfully completed a study program at the Hochschule Offenburg. Did you lose the contact to one of your former study colleagues? Are you looking for Hochschule Offenburg graduates working in a special field? Are you curious about how many Offenburg alumni are living in your area? The new alumni database offers different features like the search for colleagues and informs you about alumni activities at the University. In the next days you'll receive your login and your password which enables you to access to the database, to activate your account, to choose your

visibility and to complete your profile. Go to the following website: [www.hs-offenburg.de/alumni/international](http://www.hs-offenburg.de/alumni/international), click on the registration link, log in and discover the possibilities of the new Hochschule Offenburg alumni database. If you have any questions on the database, please feel welcome to contact us: [alumni-international@fh-offenburg.de](mailto:alumni-international@fh-offenburg.de)

## REVIEW

<http://picasaweb.google.com/fhopictures/10thAnniversaryOfInternationalMasterStudyPrograms>