



### CONTENT:

Editorial .....	01	Alumni Portraits .....	05
News .....	01	Imprint.....	05
Events .....	03		

### EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

The year 2015 has been a very special one for Offenburg University, as it was the year of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Many of you have celebrated with us at the international alumni event in May, and we are very thankful for your presence and your contributions to this event.

In this newsletter we provide an overview of this past year's prominent developments and events. We hope you keep in touch with us for the next 50 years!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season and all the best for 2015,

The Graduate School Team

### NEWS

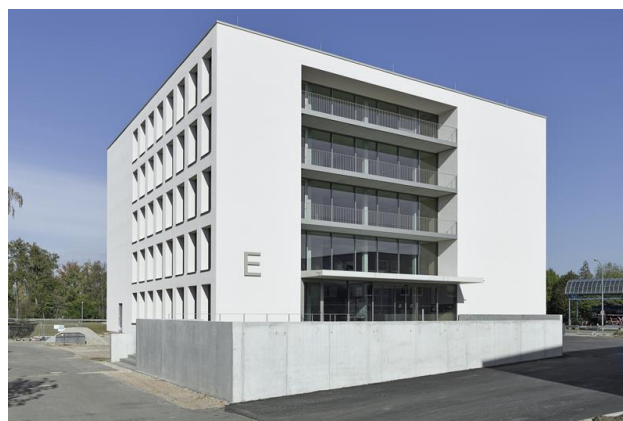
#### ALUMNI SURVEY REVEALS ASTONISHING RESULTS

The annual alumni survey brought very satisfying results for Offenburg University. 76 alumni from 25 countries took part in this year's survey.

Although the sample represents a small percentage of all graduated, the outcome is interesting enough to share with all of you: 53.9% of respondents found a job or doctorate position immediately after graduation. The first job of 64.5% of the graduates is or was located in Germany, and 53.3% are currently residing in Germany. Another interesting result was the way how our alumni got their first job: 32% found a position by searching on the Internet, 21.3% through a company contact from their studies (e.g

recruitment fair on campus), and 25% with the help of the Career Center's services. This last figure demonstrates how important these services can be for students.

#### CONTRUCTIONS GO ON



Newly inaugurated E-building

As you've been reading about for the last two years, Offenburg University together with the local community and the Baden-Württemberg Finance Ministry have been investing in the institution's growth and modernization, to the benefit of students and staff.



Insides of E-Building 2014

The new Education Campus in Gengenbach is already in its third semester and the E-Building in Offenburg got finished and ready just before the beginning of the this winter semester.

Not stopping at these achievements, the Mensa cafeteria and the university library at the Offenburg Campus will be tackled next, as ever-increasing student numbers require more space and better infrastructure in these facilities.

The first construction permit for the renovation of the Mensa has already been issued by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Nils Schmid (SPD). It also involves a thorough update of the kitchen equipment and food-distribution area.

At the same time, the modernization and redesign of the university library has been getting underway after some initial delays due to more pressing issues. After the expansion work, currently projected to cost 1.25 million euros, the library will be twice its size, which currently is 376 square meters.

## TWO AWARDS FROM OUR PARTNER UNIVERSITY IN OLSZTYN/POLAND

At the inauguration ceremony of its 16<sup>th</sup> academic year, the University of Warmia and Mazury awarded Rector Winfried Lieber of Offenburg University an Honorary Doctorship.

In his acceptance speech Professor Lieber highlighted the close cooperation between Offenburg University and its Polish partner university. Olsztyn has also been a partner city of Offenburg since 1999.



Rector Winfried Lieber receiving UWM Honorary Doctorate

The two universities cooperate in a number of areas in both teaching and research. The double-degree Master's program in Process Engineering, in operation since 2009 and led by Professor Torsten Schneider, is a particular success story. Professor Torsten Schneider received an award at the

ceremony, too, the University statuette, for his dedicated work and management of the program that has been crucial to its success. Rector Lieber also stressed the significance of the groundwork to partnership between the universities that was laid by the late entrepreneur George Dietrich. Both sides avowed to expand their mutual cooperation and support in the spirit of Dietrich's legacy.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR

Professor Lothar Schüssele, who had led the Graduate School and the International Centre since its inception, turned over the baton to Professor Torsten Schneider in spring 2014.



Professors Schüssele and Schneider

Prof. Schüssele initiated first international Master's program at Offenburg University by successfully applying to the DAAD. At the time, all other applying institutions were research universities. Since then, several other international (fully English-taught) study programs have been established. You probably know them by their acronyms, CME, ECM, MPE, and IBC.

When Prof. Schüssele started heading the Graduate School and International Office in 2001, the two divisions had only a small staff. They were merged in 2009 and grew to a full-fledged institution of 14 employees today. This highlights today's importance of international orientation for Offenburg University, but also indicates how staff responsibilities have increased with regard to international exchange.

Taking over from Prof. Schüssele, Prof. Schneider already brought extensive international experience to his new office. Schneider has been with the University for 25 years and will continue to head the English-language, double-degree program of Process Engineering with the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) that he initiated and helped to prosper.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS FOR ECM-STUDENTS

At this year's Awards Ceremony, 17 industrial companies and other institutions from the region awarded a total of 28 students and graduates for their outstanding academic performances and social commitment at Offenburg University. Among them were three from our international Master's degree program Energy Conversion and Management.

Pablo Buritica from Colombia is the first recipient of the Dr. Martin Herrenknecht Award, endowed with 2500 EUR. The award distinguishes exceptional Master's theses written in the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering.

Carolin Lutz, ECM graduate and currently writing her doctoral thesis at the Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie (KIT) received a scholarship of 1000 EUR from MEIKO.

ZONTA, an international association dedicated to improving women's legal, economical, political and professional situations, bestowed six women with generous stipends, including Liubov Nosowa, a first-semester student of ECM from Russia. ZONTA President Elke Gorissen attended the ceremony in person to hand over the stipends.



Prof. Treffinger along with the award winners

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OTHER ALUMNI

Offenburg University would like to invite all alumni who have the chance to meet another alumna or alumnus anywhere in the world to share their experience with us, so we can publish it on Facebook. This idea is to promote a social network among alumni living in the same area. Perhaps there are more people who would like to join in the meet-ups if we can spread the news.

In September, for example, an alumni get-together took place in Mexico City, in this case organized by Graduate-School staff members attending a fair there.

Let us know, when you are going to meet or have met another alumus or alumna and we will be happy to spread the news for you.

## EVENTS

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OFFENBURG UNIVERSITY

On May 24, the University commemorated its 50th anniversary. Around 65 alumni participated in the formal welcoming reception exclusively for the Graduate School's alumni in the morning event, with drinks and a speech by Karola Hoffman of *finep forum for international development and planning*.

About 180 people attended the Alumni Evening, when alumni, staff, current students of the Graduate School as well as Senior Service members came together for student performances, food, drinks and dance.



Alumni and members of the Senior Service at the 50th Anniversary of the University



Ms. Vanié (left) and Ms. Nordau cheering for the University

All day long, attendees enjoyed a festival with many interesting exhibitions, live experiments, and insights into the history of the University.



Project Mapping onto Building A

After dark, students presented an animated video about the university, which was projected onto the newly renovated outside wall of Building A.



Alumni and students performing a Salsa-dance led by the MPE-alumnus Daniel Contreras Morin

The concluding Alumni Party went on until 2 o'clock the next morning.

For more pictures please post from May, 26:  
[www.facebook.com/graduateschool.univ.offenburg](http://www.facebook.com/graduateschool.univ.offenburg)

#### INTERNATIONAL EVENING – THE TRADITION GOES ON

Once again the International Evening was held in the auditorium of the University on 20 November 2014. It was the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of this highly popular event.

More than 400 guests saw presentations from 14 countries and tasted delicacies prepared by international students.



Students from Venezuela and Colombia performing a traditional dance together



Students enjoying themselves after successful presentations



Guests and students sharing meals



**DOUBLE SUCCESS: TWO CME STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DOCTORATE**

First their International Master's, then their doctorate: Razia Sultana from Bangladesh and Valentin Ortega from Mexico now hold PhD's from Offenburg University in cooperation with the University of Strasbourg in France. The doctorate degree opens the doors to an academic career or leadership positions in industry.



Razia Sultana from Bangladesh and Valentin Ortega from Mexico

Razia Sultana and Valentin Ortega had recently completed their Master's degree in Communication and Media Engineering (CME), before putting in three years of work on the doctorate.

"We started together and supported each other," they report. Razia Sultana, known to most only as Rima, was supervised by Professor Andreas Christ, Valentin Ortega by Werner Schroeder. "The successful defenses of both former Master's students within three months are visible signs of the extensive research work conducted at Hochschule Offenburg at the intersection of fundamental research and practical application. They also demonstrate the excellent, long-standing collaboration with the University of Strasbourg," the Vice President of Research, Professor Christ said.

"It was not always easy to manage between all the different supervisors – especially in France, we sometimes had problems with the language and the bureaucracy," Razia Sultana and Valentin Ortega say. Both wrote their doctoral theses in English.

Valentin Ortega came to Offenburg some ten years ago, working as a researcher in the "Institute for Unmanned Aerial Systems" under Professor Dr. Werner Schroeder. Razia Sultana came to study in Offenburg in 2007. Initially she planned to return to Bangladesh after receiving her degree, but now she

would prefer to stay in Germany, perhaps as team leader in software development.

The completion of their doctorate degrees at a German university constitutes a great success for the 32-year-old Rima and the 35-year-old Valentin; both came here with no knowledge of German. "This is a big plus of the international programs at Hochschule Offenburg – that they're taught in English and you can find them described in English on the Internet" Valentin says he initially had problems with the Baden dialect, but now you can hear a slight singsong from Baden in his German. Rima, who used to live in Dhaka, a big metropolis of Bangladesh, has long adapted to the quiet and calm atmosphere of Offenburg. "But now it's time to leave this warm nest," she says, looking confidently into the future.

**Topics of their Doctorate:**

**Valentin Ortega:** "Monitoring of different production processes involving contaminating waste using Fourier-Transform Raman spectroscopy"

**Razia Sultana:** "Research on system architecture for device and content independent applications including 3D imaging and virtual reality as content."

IMPRINT

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

**EDITORIAL STAFF:** Graduate School Team

**CONTACT:** [gs@hs-offenburg.de](mailto:gs@hs-offenburg.de)