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## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. We are happy to inform you that we have finally managed to fulfill the request of many of you to be present on Facebook, too, making it easier for you to follow us and stay informed.

**Please don't forget to "LIKE" us on [www.facebook.com/graduateschool.univ.offenburg](http://www.facebook.com/graduateschool.univ.offenburg)**

We also want to encourage you to meet with other alumni independently wherever you are at the moment. Maybe, without you knowing it, there are some alumni living almost next door from you and you could meet them regularly, exchange your experiences at Offenburg and have a great time together. **So please propose a date, time and place where you would like to meet with other alumni and we will publish it on Facebook and in the International Alumni Newsletter for you.**

Additionally to this newsletter, we would like to offer you to send you the University's (German language) CAMPUS magazine, which comes out twice a year.

**If you are interested in receiving paper-based copies of CAMPUS free of charge, please send a short message to [lydia.schindler@hs.offenburg.de](mailto:lydia.schindler@hs.offenburg.de). Don't forget to include your current postal address in your email!**

**In 2014 Offenburg University is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** and we cordially want to invite you to celebrate with us. Please check the program on page 4 of this newsletter and **save the dates, especially May 24, 2014 for the International Alumni Event!**

We hope, this newsletter finds your interest and wish you a joyful Christmas time and a very good start into 2014!

The Graduate School Team

## NEWS

### "RICHTFEST" OF THE NEW BUILDING IN OFFENBURG

Only one week after it was announced that Mr. Peter Osypka is sponsoring 2 million euros for a new institute for medical technology at Offenburg University, the University was celebrating the roofing ceremony of the new "E" -building at the Offenburg campus.

The "passive energy building" uses the algorithms and research findings obtained by Offenburg University's "Institut für Energiesystemtechnik (INES)" and will offer plenty of seminar rooms and offices.

In only one year, the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Information Technology will move into this new 2500 square-meter building.



The new building in September 2013

The growth of Offenburg University in the past years has been exceptional. Not only has the number of students doubled in only 10 years, the University's research activities have expanded even more:

Third-party funds for research projects at Offenburg University have doubled in only 2 years and reached 3.5 Mio EUR in 2013, and more and more alumni of our international master's degree programs are involved as PhD students in of these projects

## DAAD PRESIDENT AND ECM GRADUATE HOLD THE SPEECHES AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY



DAAD president Margret Wintermantel

In October, 423 Offenburg-University students celebrated their graduation at a fully packed Oberrheinhalle on October 18. The keynote speaker at this year's graduation ceremony was Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, President of the DAAD, or German Academic Exchange Service.

Carolin Lutz, a 25-year-old ECM-graduate presented a speech on behalf of the graduates this evening and also addressed her fellow students who came to Offenburg University from abroad: "It has been so exciting to learn from you - to experience Indian equanimity and optimism, Iranian cordiality and South American friendliness, to name just a few.... I very much hope that you have come to see Germany as a 'second home'."

Prof. Dr. Schüssele, director of the International Center of Offenburg University, pointed out, that with 570 international students from 76 different countries, our campus enjoys a great international atmosphere. With more than 12% international students, the university has proven to be an attractive place for students from all over the world.

Margret Wintermantel in her speech stressed the competitive edge Offenburg University has gained by going international and Rector Lieber, referring to

the places of origin of the 423 graduates, said: "They perfectly reflect both the local impact and the pronounced internationality of Offenburg University."

## HIGH SCORES FOR MPE IN THE CHE RANKING

The *Centrum für Hochschulentwicklung* (Center for Higher-Education Development), or CHE, has announced its latest university ranking. Offenburg University achieved top positions in the fields of Electrical Engineering and Information Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Mechatronics. In all three fields, students are very satisfied with the overall study situation, IT infrastructure, library equipment, and e-learning opportunities.

The CHE also assessed the international orientation of the different study programs. Two Offenburg University programs were ranked at the top in this regard: The tri-national Bachelor's program of Electrical Engineering and Information Engineering, "3nat," and our Master's program Process Engineering.

The CHE ranking is the most comprehensive and detailed ranking of higher-education institutions in Germany and other European countries. More than 300 universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands have been surveyed by the CHE.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF ENERGY CONVERSION AND MANAGEMENT (ECM)

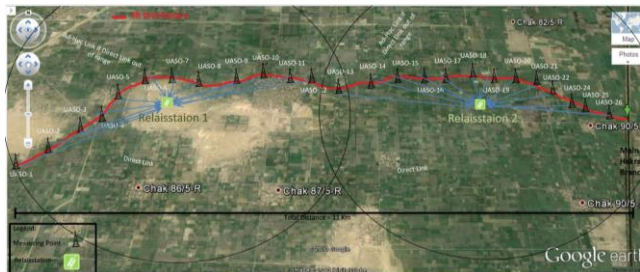
Manifold research activities are going on in the energy field. Professor Treffinger and his team are engaged in a collaboration with the University of Freiburg and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE). One of the researchers involved is Satya Gopisetty, an ECM alumnus, who is working on small-scale decentralized energy systems.

Another research team is working on the optimization of energy-intensive processes in the steel-making industry. This project called "OpenProcess" is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education.

Recently, Professor Treffinger also organized a conference on "Integration of Wind Energy into the Energy System" in the context of a wind-energy trade fair in Offenburg. Several new research ideas and possibilities for further collaborations with industry and research institutes came out of the discussions at the conference.

## GERMAN-PAKISTANI RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN SENSOR AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Offenburg University in collaboration with the School of Science and Engineering at the renowned Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) has established a German-Pakistani research project.



Sensor Network for monitoring the irrigation system in Pakistan

Initiated this year, the project aims at the development of a reliable, cost- and energy-efficient sensor and communication system for monitoring the world's largest irrigation system, which is found in Pakistan.

The project is supported by the DAAD for an initial two years and involves scientists from Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city and capital of the Punjab Province, and Offenburg University, including some CME-students.

Offenburg Professors Schneider, Program Director of the MPE-program and Sikora, Program Director of the CME-program, visited LUMS in March and attended the "International Workshop on Intelligent Water Grids (IWG)".

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTING MBA PROGRAM (IBC):

We just received notice that IBC has been ranked by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds, one of the three most influential university rankings in the world, which also runs a number of well-known MBA-related events), in the category of "Emerging Regional" programs.



Offenburg University building in Gengenbach

Next year (WS 2014/15) will see some changes in the IBC curriculum: A Microeconomics module will replace "Network Technology and E-Business." In return, the Logistics module will include an additional course on simulation.

Other additional offers, such as presentation skills training by members of the Galli Business Theater (Vienna/Munich) and student coaching, will further strengthen the profile of our program. Also starting in WS 2014/15, the IBC program's tuition will be increased to € 10,400.

## STUDENT SURVEY REVEALS CONSISTENTLY HIGH RATINGS FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

In the 2013 survey of first-semester students at Offenburg University, the services offered by the Graduate School were rated as "excellent" or "very good" throughout.

### Supplementary Graduate School Survey



87.5% of all first-semester students of one of the University's four international Master's programs – CME, ECM, IBC and MPE – participated in the survey, which is conducted every year.

Students were asked about their satisfaction with services provided both in preparation for and during their studies, including the quality of information received before and upon arrival, advice and support provided by Graduate School staff members, and extracurricular offerings such as the cultural program and the Senior Service (see graph above).

Especially encouraging is the fact that the ratings improved in every measure over last year's results, which were already impressive.

## MAKE IT IN GERMANY

"Make it in Germany" is a new welcome portal of the German government that warmly welcomes international qualified professionals and their families in Germany: They can use the welcome portal to find out how they can come to live and work in Germany – and why it is worthwhile doing so.

German companies are increasingly looking to recruit well-qualified professionals – particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). And there is also a need for qualified professionals in the health sector – even below graduate level.

"Make it in Germany" helps all those interested in living and working in Germany make their new start. The welcome portal brings together advisory and support services. It includes information about the sectors in which qualified professionals are being sought and the necessary requirements they must meet in order to enter into employment in Germany ("Quick check"). Additionally, the interactive world map "Germany local" contains contact and services information for German institutions worldwide.

**The welcome portal for qualified professionals:**  
[www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com)

## EVENTS

Due to the fact, that next year, Offenburg University is expecting great festivities, there was no "Sommerfest" and therefore also no alumni meeting organized this year. In 2014 Offenburg University is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we cordially want to invite you to celebrate with us:

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at Offenburg University:

#### Friday, May 23, 2014

- Symposium at the Department of Business Administration and Industrial Engineering
- Symposium at the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Process Engineering
- AStA Party at night

#### Saturday, May 24, 2014

- "50 years of Offenburg University" – summer festival at the Offenburg campus
- [International Alumni Event](#)

#### Monday, May 26, to Wednesday, May 28, 2014

- International Week (for the partner universities)

#### Wednesday, May 28, 2014

- Gala dinner at the Oberrheinhalle

#### Friday, May 30, 2014

- Anniversary Ceremony

**Please save the dates; especially May 24, 2014 for the International Alumni Event!**

## HOCHSCHULE OFFENBURG WELL REPRESENTED AT THE CITY'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

With its international orientation, Offenburg University significantly contributes to the city's multicultural character. It currently enrolls 447 international students from 67 different countries. Consequently, the "Hochschule" was also present with its own stand at Offenburg's "International Fest" on June 16, 2013.

African students of the University, among others, offered delicious foods and drinks, while a group of Master's students from all over the globe wowed their audience with captivating salsa rhythms.

Despite staggering heat that day, Daniel Contreras Morin from Venezuela and his fellow performers even succeeded in getting the audience to dance along!



Students and other citizens of Offenburg dancing Salsa at the International Festival

## ECM OFFICIALS AND ALUMNI ACTIVELY PROVE THEIR ENERGY PERFORMANCE

At ECM, it's all about energy - and some of it is spent on sports! Once again, Professor Treffinger, ECM Program Director, diligently trained the Offenburg University Team to participate in the nationally renowned "Worldclass Mountainbike Marathon Challenge" in Offenburg this May, which attracted more than one thousand participants.

One month later in June, an international team of five ECM alumni and the ECM Coordinator, Alexandra Raunig, participated in the relay run of the Mannheim Night Marathon.

Everybody enjoyed it a lot, including not only the runners, but also a team of supporters, consisting of students and graduates of Hochschule Offenburg.



Prof. Treffinger, enjoying the race, despite of the heavy rain

We very much hope to encourage more alumni to join the fun and participate in future sports events!

## PORTRAIT

### PORTRAIT OF ARTURO HERNANDEZ, IBC ALUMNUS

"I would like to share a part of my life with you: my experience in Germany.

In 2002, I met a German girl in Mexico and after several years being together, traveling all the time between Mexico, France and Germany, we married 2007 in Mexico and at the same time I decided to study in Europe. France was my first choice, but my German wife convinced me to choose Germany. I thought: "Why not? Germany is one of the most important countries in the world and one of the principal players in the European economic development!"

To be honest, my decision to choose the MBA-program International Business Consulting of the Offenburg University of Applied Sciences was based on price and program. I did not have a scholarship and therefore I wanted to be sure that the time and money invested would bring some "return" for my professional career as well as for me as a person.

The IBC-program fulfilled my expectation and I can 100% recommend it. I met nice classmates and a wonderful staff. The MBA was my green card for German companies. Offenburg University is not one

of the biggest, but in Germany you don't need to be in one of the "Top 5 Universities" to be recognized. Don't forget the stamp "Made in Germany".

I have now been living in Germany since August 2007 and so far it has been a wonderful experience. I already created roots in three different areas of Germany: Offenburg is the place where I studied and where my first son was born, in Frankfurt my second son was born and I got the opportunity to work for the company Bayer and now I am living close to Düsseldorf, having the chance to develop my professional carrier in the area of Supply Chain Management and at the same time enjoying the free time with my family.

It has been great to get to know the German way of managing business, which is quite different from Mexico or the US and it is very interesting to learn how Germans think and act. This experience does not only increase the value of my curriculum vitae, but it also increases my knowledge about German culture and European business. After three years in a "German work environment" and with the help of a German language teacher, I'm now speaking German well enough to join meetings and discuss in German.

If you are looking for an international experience, Germany is perhaps not the first choice for doing tourism, but it is one of the best places to work... It is not impossible to get a job in Germany as foreigner. You just need to prepare yourself, work hard and be open for it...."



If I can help you sharing some of my experience in Germany, you can contact me at: don\_enchilada@hotmail.com

## IMPRINT

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