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## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

2016, another year in which the Offenburg campus of the University has grown significantly, is coming to an end.

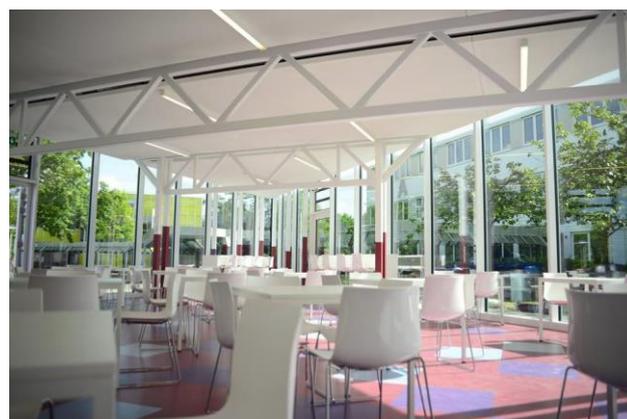
Before we all start into the new year, enjoy this short summary of prominent developments and events at the University and of its alumni in the past year.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to share some information.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season and all the best for 2017,

The Graduate School Team

Offenburg University keeps on expanding at a rapid pace. Only a little more than a year since the new seminar building “E” at the edge of the Offenburg campus was officially inaugurated, construction work has continued with the thorough renovation and enlargement of both the university cafeteria and the library, greatly benefiting the campus community.



Newly enlarged and renovated student cafeteria

## NEWS

### CONSTRUCTION GOES ON AT OFFENBURG CAMPUS



New E-Building at Offenburg campus



Newly enlarged and renovated student library

At the same time, the foundations were laid for a new research building for medical engineering: Sponsored by Dr. Peter Osypka with a gift of two million euros, it will accommodate the Peter Osypka Institute for Pacing and Ablation in the near future.



New Peter Osypka Institute for Pacing and Ablation

Construction has also begun on a ten-million-euro project, the “Regionales Innovationszentrum für Energietechnik” (‘regional innovation center of energy engineering’). It will house research laboratories for the most part, paving the way for a concentration of research and development activities in the fields of environmental technologies, renewable energies and resource efficiency.

About half of the professors at Offenburg University are already involved in research. Running out of space on the current campus area, the new research building will arise beyond Südring, on the grounds of the sports fields vis-à-vis the new seminar building.



Planned space for the new regional innovation center

### EXPANSION OF THE PROCESS ENGINEERING (MPE) PROGRAM IN CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Since March 2016, students enrolled in the MPE program now have two study options at our partner university in Olsztyn: Biotechnology and Food Technology. The newly added Department of Food Technology offers lectures and labs in modern, well-equipped technology halls.

The new department focuses on food physics and rheology, food quality and safety management, as well as basic nutrition and novel food products, among others.



Technology hall of the food-technology department in Olsztyn

### NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR CME (COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ENGINEERING)

Dr. Axel Sikora has stepped down from his position as CME program director since shifting the focus of his work on the Hahn-Schickard-Institut in Villingen-Schwenningen and primarily working on research and development projects during his remaining time at Hochschule Offenburg since the beginning of this year.

He is succeeded by Dr. Stephan Pfletschinger, Professor of Communication Engineering and Messaging Systems at Hochschule Offenburg since the 2016 summer semester.



Dr. Stephan Pfletschinger

Professor Pfletschinger worked at a research institute in Barcelona/Spain from 2003 to 2015 and collaborated in many projects of the EU and ESA (European Space Agency). He continued working internationally during his tenure at the Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (German Aerospace Center), where he headed a national and an EU project for train-to-train communication.

For CME, Professor Pflötschinger is aiming to establish better networking with related German-taught Master's degree programs at Offenburg in order to expand the course offerings. He also hopes to enhance the attractiveness of CME for German and other European students and to further encourage exchange between the German and the international students.

We thank Professor Sikora for his great commitment in leading the CME program in the past years, and wish Professor Pflötschinger all the best of success for the new task.

### MARLIES POLLETS RETIRES, SUCCEEDED BY CLAUDIA MICHEL



Marlies Pollet

Most likely, one of the first persons you were in contact with at Offenburg University was Marlies Pollet, the Graduate-School staff member responsible, among others things, for helping new international students find accommodation in Offenburg and Gengenbach.

Braving the notorious housing shortage for students in the Offenburg area, Marlies never took no for an answer and year after year managed to accommodate all international students by the time they arrived at Offenburg. She also organized the Cultural Program of the Graduate School and accompanied numerous excursions herself. After 14 years at Offenburg University, Marlies retired from professional life in the summer of 2016. She will remain a contact for international student in her capacity as a member of the Senior Service, however.

Taking over from Marlies Pollet as of June this year, **Claudia Michel** is the new face at the International Center – though not at the University as such: as a long-time staff member of the *Studierendenwerk*



Claudia Michel

Ms. Michel is bringing a lot of experience to her new position. She is looking forward to new challenges and to getting to know the international students.

The Graduate School is happy to have Claudia on the team, and we wish her all the best in her new position.

### PAUL-CRUTZEN-PREIS 2016 FOR MPE ALUMNUS TUSHAR RASTOGI

MPE Alumnus Dr. Tushar Rastogi, a member of the very first batch of students in the Master's degree program of Process Engineering, received this year's Paul-Crutzen-Preis of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) at the society's annual conference in Tübingen in September.



Dr. Tushar Rastogi, MPE Alumnus

Following his graduation from Hochschule Offenburg, Tushar Rastogi earned his doctoral degree at Leuphana Universität at Lüneburg/Germany and is currently employed there at the Institut für nachhaltige Chemie und Umweltchemie as a research associate.

The GDCh's subject division of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology awarded Dr. Rastogi's publication, "Re-Designing of Existing Pharmaceuticals for Environmental Biodegradability: A Tiered Approach with  $\beta$  Blocker Propranolol as an Example." The publication was part of Dr. Rastogi's dissertation research.

Dr. Rastogi has demonstrated that small molecular alteration in the existing pharmaceutical's structure could incorporate the addition attribute such as degradability in the environment while still retaining the desired therapeutic effect. The study was a proof of concept of Benign by Design approach, which is an important concept within green and sustainable pharmacy and chemistry and promises a solution to the global challenge of occurrence of pharmaceutical residue in the environment.

The Paul-Crutzen-Preis, has been awarded annually since 2009. Since 2011, it is named after the Nobel Prize-winning atmospheric chemist Paul J. Crutzen, known for his work on climate change. The prize recognizes outstanding research work in the field of environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology.

## PROMINENT GUEST SPEAKER AT IBC PROGRAM (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTING)

On December 7, students of the Graduate School were invited to a speech titled "International Mechanisms of Anti-Corruption and its Relation with Business."

Dr. Martínez Peralta



The guest speaker was Mr. Martínez Peralta, a representative of the Foreign Ministry of Mexico. Prior to his current position, he has also worked at the Permanent Mission of Mexico (2012-16) and at the Mexican Embassy in Beijing (2005-12).

Mr. Martínez Peralta provided an interesting overview of the different international treaties and mechanisms in combating corruption, from the United Nations Convention of Anti-Corruption to the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG). As Germany will be chairing the G-20 Group in 2017, he focused on the ACWG in relation with the private sector.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OTHER ALUMNI

Do you want to meet up with other alumni of the Graduate School in your area?

Let us know when you are going to meet, or if you have caught up with another alumnus or alumna, and we will be happy to spread the news on our Facebook site.

Perhaps there are more people who will like to join in a meet-up if they learn about it.

## PORTRAIT

### FASCINATION FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

ECM Alumnus Parantapa Sawant was born in India in 1987. Following his motto, "alternatives are the only alternative," his career goal is to work as a competent energy systems analyst or researcher.

During his Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering he was fascinated about the fact that the knowledge of energy technologies and renewable energies could help contribute significantly for securing a sustainable future for humanity.

His search for higher education in this field brought him to Germany, which he believes is a country with highly developed energy research and a great sense of environmental responsibility. At Offenburg Parantapa pursued the international Master's degree program in Energy Conversion and Management (ECM) from 2009-11. After graduation he worked at an engineering company in Ludwigshafen for two years.

In 2015, following his aim to accumulate skills and international exposure for supporting energy and environmental projects in developing countries, he started pursuing his doctorate at the Graduate School for Decentralized and Sustainable Energy Systems jointly based at Offenburg University and the University of Freiburg.

Parantapa says that the ECM professors, course coordinators and other staff members of the University, and not least the members of the unique Senior Service, all did a great job to ensure a good education in a friendly and integrated setting. Asked to sum up his experience at Hochschule Offenburg, he promptly replies: "A healthy cultural exchange, wonderful friends and great student times is how I remember my days at Offenburg University of Applied Sciences".



Parantapa Sawant, ECM Alumnus

## IMPRINT

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