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## EDITORIAL

Hello,

Did you know that the origin of the word „alumni“ is the Latin word „alere“ which means (to) nourish? A lot of time has passed since our last Alumni letter, today we would like to “nourish” you again with some news from the Graduate School.

We hope that the year 2007 was for all of you a good and successful one and we wish you all the best for 2008.

2008 will be a very special year for us as this year we are going to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the International Master Programs. As you might know, CME has been introduced in 1998 as one of the first International Master Programs in Germany - IBC, AME and ECM started shortly after. On 6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> June we would like to commemorate the anniversary together with all of you, starting with an official reception on Friday evening with the attendance of Mr. Staechele, Minister of State and European Affairs and Prof. Dr. Huber, vice-president of the DAAD-German Academic Exchange Service. On Saturday a diverse cultural and seminar program followed by a dinner will expect you and the event will finally close on Sunday with a traditional “Fruehschoppen”. Please already mark the date of this event in your calendar. Further details on the celebration will be provided soon.

Enjoy reading this edition of the alumni newsletter!

Your Graduate School Team:

Prof. Lothar Schuessle, Prof. Karl Buehler, Prof. Rainer Fischer, Stéphane Dupas, Ulrike Nordau, Marlies Pollet, Alexandra Raunig, Irmela Truedinger, Silvia Willmann

## NEWS

## GRADUATE SCHOOL INCOMINGS

After having received almost 700 applications for the winter semester 2007/08, we could welcome in autumn 63 news students from all over the world (CME: 25; ECM: 28; IBC: 10). For the first time, two female students from Bangladesh took up their studies here in Offenburg. (IT)

## RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

Good news for graduates who have a residence title for job search. Graduates with this status are able to work part time in the same extent as students: 90 days / 180 half days per year. However they still need to be able to accredit that the search for a qualified position has priority. The amendment of the law was concluded by the Bundestag last summer. (UN)

## HOCHSCHULE OFFENBURG ON TOUR

To strengthen our international relationships, to develop partnerships with universities and to promote our International Study Programs, the Hochschule Offenburg undertakes many activities. Profs. Felhauer (E+I) and Rohbock (M+I) are currently participating in the DAAD-German Higher Education Promotion Tour in India which goes through six different cities. Prof. Bender will leave at the end of this month for Colombia and Mexico where he will represent the Hochschule at the EuroPosgrados 2008. Some of you have contacted their former departments, professors or assistants and have provided us with valuable contacts regarding future university cooperations. Others have offered to help us directly on the Fair giving first-hand information to interested students. On this occasion we would like to thank you very much for this very important support. (IT)

## DOUBLE DIPLOMA FOR MEE STUDENTS IN CHILE

In an official graduation ceremony in Santiago de Chile on December 20th 2007, seven graduates from the Hochschule Offenburg as well as the Technical University Federico Santa María UTFSM in Chile obtained the double degree "Master of Business Administration" in Energy Economics and "Magister en Economía Energética". Out of the 4 study semesters, the students had spent 1 very compact study month in Offenburg in November 2006. (AR)

## ALUMNI-PORTRAITS

### NO BETTER PLACE AT THESE LANDS

After several years working on the telecoms sector I wanted to take time off and dig into the IT world. Once I decided to do this in Germany following my wife's advice as an ex-DAAD student, Hochschule Offenburg ended on my top-3 list of German Universities. Even though I did not speak any German before, from application day onwards the communication with the Graduate School was great; there I always found people willing to help me. The CME program content was diverse, allowing me to choose from a wide range of subjects and seminars but also giving me the opportunity to define my own study plan at my own pace. Offenburg, with its mountains filled with vineyards, provided me the perfect atmosphere to concentrate on my studies and think about what to do next. Indeed, there was not better place as these lands and I also shared a particular bond: it happened to be in Endingen, just 50km South of Offenburg, where my Great-Great-Grandfather initiated his journey to emigrate to Venezuela 164 years ago. Being there and understanding my family roots resulted in such an invaluable experience that also helped meet some old relatives with whom I now keep in contact regularly. This was Offenburg for me: studies, nature, friends and family, it was a time for learning but also for enjoying the simple things in life. Today, less than two years after I got my degree, I am proudly part of Nokia Siemens Networks R&D team, providing high-level technical support on very complex OSS Systems to our customers around the world, meanwhile my spare time is totally dedicated to my lovely wife and my two kids: Ricardo (4 years old) and Paola (2 years old)."

Efrain Ruh ( CME graduate 2006)

## YOUR PERSONAL RAMP UP TO GREATER

Dear reader,

You might think that I am some highly paid editor or newspaper writer hired to write a killer story for the university that will make everybody love it and apply for it by the hundreds. Well I will have to disappoint you. I am a regular international graduated student at the very university that we're speaking of and I can assure you that sooner or later a worse university gets its dose of bad fame. This won't ever happen with Offenburg for a number of reasons, which I will lay down in the next few paragraphs. Although situated not in one of the Germany's big cities, Offenburg has its own charm. You might need some time to appreciate it, but once you do you'll start enjoying your life as a student there the best way you can. Exactly the small town population makes it possible to learn each and every student's name by heart and therefore create a lot of friends and people to get around with. And as people say: it is not important where you go; rather who do you go with. Then the never-ending parties become inerasable memories for life. Let's not put aside the education, since after all it is the reason why people go to universities, or did I get something wrong? Well I hope not, because exactly the education offered at the University of Applied Sciences in Offenburg is the factor that played a crucial role in my further professional life. If you play your cards right you can have a very thorough theoretical part combined with a career start as an internship or a diploma done at a company of your choice. I cannot also forget the people at the university and I'm not talking only about teachers and assistants. I mean everyone involved in the whole studying process. Without their help and kindness the life of a foreigner in Germany wouldn't have been what it was. And believe me it was good. Numerous excursions, international evenings, parties, sport events you name it, Offenburg has it. Now is the time to ramp up to greater achievements...

At the moment I am a SAP Solution Consultant in the area of SAP NetWeaver Product Suite. The job is very intensive with trips around Germany at least every two weeks. I was already in Berlin, Munich and Koeln where at night I have some time to enjoy the city life. I also have a car now, which helps me move around quickly. I hope in the future I'll be able to open a Bulgarian office of the company where I work at and in this way help also some talented students and professional back in my home country.

Todor Petrov ( CME graduate 2006)

## NEW "CME" BABY BORN

We are happy to announce the birth of Luisa Sophia on 15 December 2007. She is the daughter of our colleagues CME alumna Carolina Bernal Restrepo and her husband Ralf Hilterhaus who is also a CME graduate. We wish her and her parents good luck for the future and not too many sleepless nights. (UN)

## EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2007

The 16th International Evening of the Graduate School on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 attracted more than 200 people. They enjoyed an evening with impressive presentations about life and culture Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Nepal Panama, Russia and Turkey. Farah Gammoh from Jordan enchanted the audience with a fascinating oriental dance. Between the presentations students from Mexico created a South American atmosphere with songs from their home country. For the break students had prepared a diversified buffet with delicacies from more than 15 countries. Another highlight of the evening was the impassionate performance of Tango Argentino of Öcgür Arin from Turkey and his German partner. (UN)



### IBC EXCURSION TO SMART

How and where does SMART actually produce its cars? Where does the company's name come from – and which are the suppliers collaborating with SMART? How many cars are produced per day? To find the answers to those and many more questions, IBC students from Gengenbach went on a trip to SMARTVILLE in Hambach, France, on January 10<sup>th</sup>, in context with their lecture *Production and Operations Management*. Guided by charming Sabine Werner from the SMART communication centre, who before also used to work as an employee in the SMART production halls, the international students got a deep insight into the actual production process and were able to witness the different phases of the car by walking through the building directly along the production line. When the group left at around noon, more than 200 cars had already been produced – that very day the objective was to manufacture 598 of the colourful vehicles. Though the excursion was very interesting and to many of the students the word creation SMART (= Swatch+Mercedes+ART) seemed quite

innovative, there were only few who seriously considered buying such a car in the future. Passing Strasbourg with its Kronenbourg brewery, the destination for the next excursion was already decided on. (AR)



## IMPRINT

IMPRINT: Hochschule Offenburg - University of Applied Sciences, Germany

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