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EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni,

As the year 2017 is coming to a close, we greet you, as every year, with our international alumni letter. We hope you enjoy this short summary of some prominent developments and events at Offenburg University in the past year as well as the reports of two fellow alumni.

The upcoming year 2018 will be a special one for the Graduate School at Offenburg University, as it sees the 20th anniversary of its international Master's degree programs.

This 20th anniversary celebration will be dedicated to you, our alumni. This is your chance to see your friends from Offenburg again and follow the great developments your alma mater has experienced over the years.

Therefore, we hope to see you here in Offenburg on June 1 and 2, 2018!

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season and all the best for 2018,

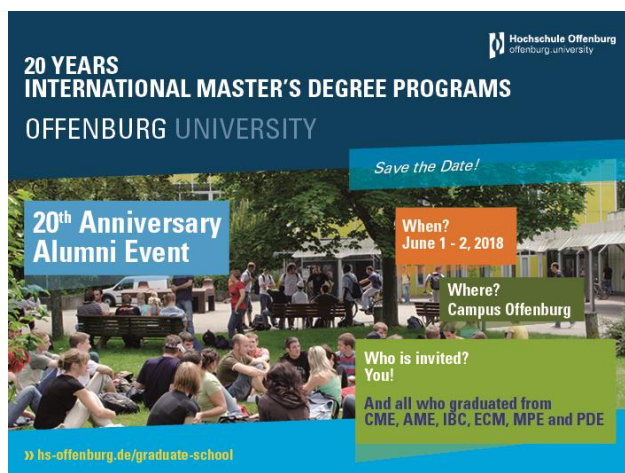
The Graduate School Team

NEWS

20 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT OFFENBURG UNIVERSITY

In 1998 the first international Master's degree program, Communication and Media Engineering (CME), was established at Offenburg University, with other English-taught programs following soon. In

2008, CME was chosen by the Association for German Science and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as one of the 10 best international Master's courses at German universities. Since then, the Graduate School's programs have received several other awards and continue to be innovative.



Today around 200 students from around the world are enrolled at the Graduate School, and around 40 doctoral students are involved in one of the applied research projects at Offenburg University, many of them alumni of one of the Graduate School programs.

There is definitely a lot to celebrate in 2018, and we cordially invite you and your families to join us at the 20th anniversary celebration for the following program:

Friday, June 1, 2018

- 16:00 Reception with drinks and snacks
- 17:00 Speeches on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Graduate School's international Master's degree programs
- 19:00 International dinner at Hotel Mercure

Saturday, June 2, 2018

9:00 Graduate School Alumni excursion to the Black Forest

- Visit of Hofgut Sternen, including a guided tour of their sustainable energy plant and a demonstration of the cuckoo-clock handicraft
- Networking lunch at Haberjocklhof followed by a "Schwarzwald Gaudi" (tons of fun with team games)

19:00 Graduate School Students and Alumni Celebration, with international student performances.

Don't miss this great possibility to visit Offenburg University and meet your former classmates and friends from Offenburg again!

You will receive the invitation email with more details in February 2018. We are looking forward to seeing you!

POWER AND DATA ENGINEERING – THE GRADUATE SCHOOL'S NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM

The new international Master's degree program Power and Data Engineering (PDE) was launched this October – the fifth such program offered by the Graduate School.

PDE prepares energy engineers for the challenges dealing with the increasing pace of digitalization in industry. Students not only acquire a comprehensive understanding of power generation and the underlying energy systems, but also expertise in modern methods of data engineering and analytics.

The program takes three semesters to complete, earning the degree "Master of Science in Power and Data Engineering." For more information, go to:

www.hs-offenburg.de/pde

NEW COOPERATIVE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM WITH UWM / OLSZTYN

Offenburg University's cooperation with the University of Warmia and Mazury (UWM) in Olsztyn/Poland has been a success story.

Starting in the 2018/19 winter semester, students in Offenburg and Olsztyn will be able to enroll in a new English-taught Master's degree program, studying biotechnology with a specialization in bioeconomics.

Twenty study places will be available, ten each at Offenburg and UWM. The first semester is spent in Offenburg, the second in Olsztyn, and in the third semester students can choose either institution to write their Master's thesis.

Professor Winfried Lieber, Rector of Offenburg University, recently visited Olsztyn to launch the new Master's degree program, together with Professors Christiane Zell, Anne Najderek and Johannes Vinke.



From left: Johannes Vinke, Christiane Zell, UWM Rector Ryszard J. Górecki, Winfried Lieber (Rector Offenburg University), Anne Najderek (Vice-Rector Offenburg University)

Lieber maintains contact not only in his capacity as rector, but also as an honorary doctor of UWM. "The fact that [UWM] has further developed in the engineering sciences in highly innovative ways makes the new program even more attractive," he says.

For the Master's level graduates of the two partner universities, Lieber hopes to open yet another door in the foreseeable future: "We are currently working on a joint doctoral training program for graduates of the two cooperative degree programs [the new biotechnology program and the existing MPE program]", he says.

OFFENBURG UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INNOVATION

Offenburg University has established a new research institute. Located with the Department of Business and Industrial Engineering, the Institute for Trade and Innovation (IfTI) is the new home to leading researchers in the fields of benchmarking, strategy, implementation and process improvement. It will also host postgraduate students and doctoral researchers working on economic development and growth.



Professor Andreas Klasen, inaugural head of the IfTI (and Deputy Director of the International Center)

Rector Winfried Lieber said he was “absolutely delighted that we have launched this new and important institute. IfTI members have a reputation for their analytical approach, but are also experienced practitioners in trade policy and export finance.” The Institute will leverage top-down initiatives and bottom-up collaborative research projects.

“The foundation of the Institute for Trade and Innovation is the chain of reasoning of our most recent efforts”, added Professor Andreas Klasen, the inaugural head of the Institute. “We already support governments with regard to innovation and trade promotion instruments, and the establishment of the IfTI will strengthen our research-led solutions”.

The IfTI’s activities are based on an interdisciplinary approach with a cluster of economists, business economists, marketing specialists and legal experts. The Institute pools this expertise and will also work together with leading international partners.

<http://ifti.hs-offenburg.de>

NEW BUILDING FOR THE PETER OSYPKA INSTITUTE FOR PACING AND ABLATION

In 2017, the staff members of the Peter Osypka Institute for Pacing and Ablation moved into the new building of the Offenburg campus.

The Peter Osypka Institute for Pacing and Ablation (POI) was founded in June 2011 following an initiative by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Peter Osypka, the pioneer of radiofrequency catheter ablation, who also sponsored the new building with two million euros. It belongs to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and is headed by Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Bruno Ismer.



Peter Osypka Institute for Pacing and Ablation

FOUR MPE SCHOLARS AMONG 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

At the annual awards ceremony in November, 26 graduates and students were honored for their outstanding academic achievements by partnering companies and associations, four of them from the MPE program.

Two female students of the Master's program were awarded a scholarship from the Zonta Club: Elizabeth Obeyaa Adu from Ghana and María Victoria Villalba from Venezuela.



From left: María Victoria Villalba, Elizabeth Obeyaa Adu, Marlene Langenbach

MPE graduate Stefan Schlawin received a scholarship from Badische Stahlwerke for his outstanding thesis on "Investigation and Optimization of Liquid Mixing Processes in Pharmaceutical Production" (supervised by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Jochum), and Marlene Langenbach was honored for her achievements in process engineering with the prize of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Southern Upper Rhine.



Stefan Schlawin was honored by

Dr. Weitzmann of Badische Stahlwerke

the prize of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Southern Upper Rhine.

INTRODUCTION OF STATE TUITION FEES

Since the 2017/18 winter semester, most students from non-EU countries have to pay tuition to study in Baden-Württemberg. The Ministry of Science and the Arts has installed a contribution of 1,500 EUR per semester; 300 EUR of which directly remain with the universities and are intended to help improve the support of international students.

For Offenburg University and its international Master's degree programs, this decision has led to a significant drop in the number of applicants; up to 50% fewer applications were registered.

Meanwhile, the Graduate School staff are working on expanding the support services for international students. In addition to the services already offered in the past years, we are also expanding our range of seminars to prepare for the labor market. Tutorials and measures for better integration are also part of the new offerings.

Offenburg University is proud of its strong and long tradition of internationalization, and will continue to work towards being an attractive destination for international students.

ALUMNI PORTRAITS

NANGELLY SILVA ANZALDÚA, 2006 IBC ALUMNA

"I would never have imagined that I would study in Germany, but thanks to my university professor, I got the opportunity to study a semester of exchange and later to complete the full IBC program.

"Studying in Germany has been one of the best experiences of my life. I consider Germany as the country that offers the most suitable conditions for a student, as well as more opportunities to attain a successful professional career.

"The international experience offered by the IBC program has been a key factor in my professional development. Today I have my own consulting firm and a very efficient work team, which allows me to also have a family with two children.

We are all planning to attend the "20th Anniversary of International Master's Degree Programs at Offenburg", I am very excited that my family can meet my beloved Gengenbach."

By Nanhelly Silva Anzaldúa



Nanghelly Silva Anzaldúa with her family

MOHAMED HANBAL, 2012 IBC ALUMNUS

"Life is like a Google search engine. The more accurate and specific what you are searching for, the better are the results.' I always say this sentence to my clients or when I'm invited to give a public speech. And if you focus a little bit, you will see that it defines a huge part of what life is.

"I'm Mohamed Hanbal, Egyptian and living in Germany with my wife and our beautiful baby daughter. And I'm passionate about building people, so that they can reach their own goals and dreams, and feel happy.



Mohamed Hanbal

"I'm the founder of Hanbal Consulting Company in Germany. I am author of the career book "What's Next?", university lecturer at DHBW Mannheim and entrepreneur. Besides this, I'm the south-west Germany Champion of Public Speaking 2015 and one of the top 10 participants in the North, Middle and East Europe Championship 2015.

"It was (and still is) a long journey. And to reach this point, it was not easy. I passed through lots of challenges, setbacks and failures that I learned from and gave me the persistence to move forward. In 2010 I left a reputable job with a high salary and emigrated to Germany to pursue the MBA-IBC degree at Offenburg University. It was a hard decision, but it really paid off."

I do not know how this journey will look like 10 years from now, but the only thing that I am sure of is, that no matter how hard it will be, or how big the setbacks or the failures, the best is yet to come.

"I always love to get connected with other people especially with alumni and with former colleagues. So, feel free to share with me your story and your thoughts. Or even just write me to say "hi". You can always find me by sending an email to mohamed@mohamedhanbal.com or by visiting www.mohamedhanbal.com"

By Mohamed Hanbal

EDITORIAL STAFF IMPRINT

IMPRINT: Offenburg University of Applied Science

EDITORIAL STAFF: Graduate School Team

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