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## EDITORIAL

Hello,

We are sending you today's newsletter together with our good wishes for the New Year. As you can see we have applied some make-up to our international alumni newsletter to make it look a bit more contemporary. The redesign is part of the DAAD project "Alumni Plus" which has been put into action to intensify the international alumni relations at German universities.

The application period for the winter semester has already started and it would be highly appreciated if we could count on your support regarding the marketing activities for our three international Master Programs at the Hochschule Offenburg. A lot of our current students chose to study at Hochschule Offenburg's Graduate School because they were referred to us by one of our alumni. We are very grateful for this valuable source of information and we would like to ask you if you know a good place where prospective students turn to for information (e.g. university, language school, TOEFL test centre). We can send you posters and brochures by post to pass on to relevant places in your proximity. Just send an e-mail with your complete address to Marlies Pollet (marlies.pollet@fh-offenburg.de) and she will dispatch the information material to you.

Enjoy reading this refreshed edition of the alumni newsletter! (MM)

Your Graduate School Team:

Prof. Lothar Schuessle, Prof. Rainer Fischer, Prof. Richard Zahoransky, Stéphane Dupas, Ursula Epe, Manuela Moll, Ulrike Nordau, Marlies Pollet, Silvia Willmann

## NEWS

## GRADUATE SCHOOL INCOMINGS

For the winter semester 2006/07 51 new students from all corners of the globe were enrolled in the international Master programs of the Graduate School. The title "leading nations of the year" could be awarded to Turkey (8) and Mexico (5). (VH)

## FIRST COMPACT SEMESTER OF MASTER IN ENERGY ECONOMICS

From October 28th till November 26th, seven Chilean engineers who study the Master Program in Energy Economics (MEE) spent a compact semester at Hochschule Offenburg. This Master program is a joint venture of Offenburg University with the Chilean Universidad Federico Santa María. Compared to ECM it has a stronger economic focus and is only offered in part-time. During the German study period the MEE students accomplished a tight program of lectures, company visits, workshops, presentations and exams. (UE)

## FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI RETURNING TO HOME COUNTRY

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development offers a program which funds reintegration of employers or graduates when they return to their home countries. Eligible are nationals of transition- or less developed countries. One prerequisite is that you have worked or studied in Germany for at least two years. It is for example possible to apply for travel expenses or an additional allowance to the salary which will be paid between 6 and 24 months. For more detailed information about this interesting program please check [www.zav-reintegration.de](http://www.zav-reintegration.de) (UN).

## RE-ACCREDITATION CME

The M.Sc. program CME received the prestigious ASIIN accreditation in March 2003. The accreditation is only valid for 5 years and therefore the re-accreditation process will be undertaken in 2007. For this purpose it is very important to learn about the whereabouts of the CME alumni. We will ask them next month to fill out an online alumni-survey. The results of this survey are an essential element of the re-accreditation process. (MM)

## ALUMNI-PORTRAIT

### BULGARIAN-PAKISTAN LOVE STORY

"In my mind, together with my city of birth, Sofia, Offenburg is a place that I name home. I spent there one short and intensive year of my life. Initially I faced the challenges of being in a foreign and new place; however the warmth of the city and especially of the people soon made me feel at home. I believe that for a foreign student the aspect of integration in a new society is almost as important as the technical aspect of studies itself. Hochschule Offenburg offers utmost importance to such delicate feature of human feelings and arrange many programs such as the international evenings, the senior service, and not to forget the many excursions. As a result the new students are very quickly integrated and start to enjoy their actually purpose of being there, that is the studies. I made wonderful friends during my stay in Offenburg and met the person I want to marry. After I finished in Offenburg I travelled many places for my internships, thesis and now for my PhD work, however the bond that I have with Hochschule Offenburg is so strong that it still makes me come back to the city and visit the city and have a get together with my friends. Now I am working for my PhD in Paris in the field of video coding and I am part of the Alumni network of Hochschule Offenburg, another one of the great programs which keep us all connected as a big family." (Galina Sabeva, CME alumni)



Danish Naeem & Galina Sabeva

## RESEARCH & LECTURES

### RHENERGIE GEOTHERMAL CONFERENCE

On November 8th, 2006 was hold the third conference of the Rhenergie Conference Series. Participants discussed the theme geothermy under the motto: "Geothermal opportunities in the Upper Rhine Valley". This trans-frontier theme brought together students, professors and professionals from Germany, but also from France and Switzerland from our partner institutions INSA, Strasbourg and FHNW, Basel. The conference pointed out the Upper Rhine Valley as the best geothermal potential in Germany and presented the actual activities and the development tendencies to use geothermal energy sources. The event ran over the whole day and offered many speakers the opportunity to build an ambitious and challenging program. (SD)

## EVENTS

### GRADUATION CEREMONY OCTOBER 2006

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the Graduation Ceremony took place in the Reithalle Offenburg. This year the Lord Mayor of Offenburg, Mrs. Edith Schreiner addressed an audience. The evening was framed by a fantastic performance of the local band "Sextakkord". 28 graduates received their Master's Degree Certificates (11 CME, 10 ECM, 4 IBC, 3 AME). Prof. Bender handed over this year's DAAD award for international students to ECM-student Priscilla Owen from Canada. CME graduate Todor Petrov portrayed his stay in Offenburg with an enjoyable review. After the official Graduation Ceremony the Graduate School invited the graduates to a farewell dinner. (UN)

### GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY & MI ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday November 23rd, 2006 the ground-breaking ceremony for the new building took place at the Hochschule Offenburg. Prime Minister Günther H. Oettinger (CDU), the publisher Hubert Burda and the mayor of the city of Offenburg Edith Schreiner were present. The new building is going to be finished in 2008 and extends over a surface of 2800 m<sup>2</sup>. The costs of the project amount to 9.7 million €. The ceremony was rounded off by the opening of the art exhibition „Interdependenzen“, initiated by two MI (Media & Information Technology) graduates: Markus Joos and Daniel Klotz. Their multimedia installation „Sensorama “ consisted out of a 72 sqm accessible area, surrounded by projections.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the study program MI a grand opening an exhibition took place on campus. Posters, animations and the best films of the past years were presented. A special highlight was the screening of awarded animated movies Helden von Bern "and „Helden 06 “ (VH)

#### INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2006

Approximately 200 visitors (students, staff, members of the senior service and interested citizens) joined the 15<sup>th</sup> International Evening of the Graduate School on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Students from Mexico, Ireland, Turkey, Bulgaria, Taiwan and China shared aspects of their countries and cultures presenting pictures, songs and drama. During the break everybody enjoyed the different kinds of food offered by foreign students from more than 10 different countries. The highlight of the evening though was the Balkan songs interpreted by the Bulgarian ECM student Eli Draganova. (UE)



Participants of International Evening 2006

#### GLOBAL EDUCATION

##### NEWSFLASH FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

We are rapidly growing and expanding our network across the globe. As of January 2007, we have bilateral agreements with 48 universities in all parts of the world. The latest addition is an agreement with Girona/Spain in the faculty of business administration. To the newcomers in 2006 counted our first link to Turkey, the University of Technology in Istanbul has already proven to be a valuable link to this part of the world. We would like to extend our involvement in the English-speaking world, since our partners in Cork/Ireland and Leeds/Great Britain are very popular destinations for student mobility within Europe. Likewise, our partner Oregon State University/USA and the University of Castlereagh/Australia are valuable connections within the context of global education. We are always interested in

hearing from alumni, who perhaps can put us in touch with potential partners in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand...please visit our website for further information: [www.fh-offenburg.de/aaa](http://www.fh-offenburg.de/aaa) (RT)

#### IMPRINT

IMPRINT: Hochschule Offenburg - University of Applied Sciences, Germany

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