

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This newsletter reports on diverse activities taking place at Frankfurt UAS: For example, there are measures and programs aimed at integrating refugees and young students into the academic community at Frankfurt UAS. In this context, the “Welcome Year Mechanical Engineering” was established last summer, which is described in detail in this issue. This “Welcome Year” has been extremely successful so that Frankfurt UAS is currently expanding the offer to other academic fields such as architecture and computer sciences. You will also find a report on our students enrolled in the Master’s program “Barrier-free Systems”, who participated in a case study in Ghana in order to develop concepts for the implementation of the UN sustainability objective concerning accessibility. Find out more about these and other exciting activities in this newsletter!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Frank E. P. Dievernich

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Frankfurt UAS Takes Part in Kick-off Workshop for Barrier-Free Concepts in Ghana

A UN sustainability objective calls for the inclusive and sustainable structuring of cities and settlements until 2030. Ghana is one of the countries that have ratified this UN convention and has thus committed to implementing inclusion and accessibility in all areas of life. In August 2016, a Frankfurt UAS student team from the interdisciplinary

Master’s program “Barrier-free Systems” led by Angelika Plümmer, Faculty of Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics, participated in a three-week international workshop in Accra, Ghana. This workshop, “Parliament without Barriers (PAMBA)”, constituted the kick-off event for the project intended to establish barrier-free concepts in Ghana.

The student team visualized and discussed basics, principles, and requirements of the barrier-free construction of public buildings and open spaces in Ghana in collaboration with longtime Ghanaian co-operation partner, Dr. Alex Marful, and students from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. The parliament building in Accra served as a case study. In the long run, the participants wish to introduce a new certification system in Ghana based on their findings. This system is intended to allow the determination of type and degree of existent barrier-free accessibility of open spaces and public buildings and to reveal areas in need of improvement.

Contact

Dipl.-Ing. Angelika Plümmer
Faculty of Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics
+49 (0)69 1533-3002
pluemmer@fb1.fra-uas.de

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences



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NEWS AND EVENTS

Lecture series “Think Europe – Europe thinks”: Kick-off with Gesine Schwan



CAES Executive Board with Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Gesine Schwan, Prof. Dr. Frank E.P. Dievernich, President of Frankfurt UAS, and Prof. Dr. Christian Rieck, Professor for Finance and Economic Theory at Frankfurt UAS

In June 2016, the Center for Applied European Studies (CAES) was established with the mission to monitor European issues scientifically and to provide application-oriented solutions. Project interdisciplinarity is paramount to CAES' work and is ensured by the continuous collaboration with Frankfurt UAS' four faculties. One of the center's pillars is to organize public lectures and debates in order to provide a platform for open discussion between the economy, civil society, culture, politics and science. The lecture series “Think Europe – Europe thinks” was commenced with a lecture titled “Europe's future – between nationalism and globalization” by the German politician and co-founder of the Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Gesine Schwan. It was conti-

nued by the founder of the European Democracy Lab in Berlin Prof. Dr. Ulrike Guérot, who presented her “utopian” idea of a European republic, and by the former German Federal President Christian Wulff, who gave a lecture titled “Meanwhile, Islam belongs to Germany and Europe (?)”. Upcoming guest during the summer term is the renowned philosopher Prof. Dr. Markus Gabriel. The lecture series has proven to attract both numerous university members as well as external guests. Please find further information at www.frankfurt-university.de/en/research-transfer/centers-and-institutes/caes.html

Contact Prof. Dr. Dr. Michel Friedman, CAES Executive Director, +49 (0)69 1533-3364, info@caes.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students Partake in Technical Case Study at International Company

The Bachelor program “Service Engineering” includes the module “Technical Case Studies”, which enables students to apply their acquired knowledge in an industry setting, in its 4th semester. This year, one project of this module required eleven students to evaluate and quantify the worldwide market potential of certain spare parts of Caterpillar Energy Solutions. This company produces – among other things – cogeneration plants for the decentralized generation of combined heat and power. After a kick-off meeting, the students working on this project reported their progress at several Gateway meetings. In a final presentation to top management, the students were able to identify the end users in the international markets for a considerable number of gensets produced.

Secondly, the market share by country of selected spare parts could be established. Based on these findings, Caterpillar Energy Solutions will be able to take actions to increase the overall spare parts revenue. The students applied their ability and knowledge to a real world case and thus learned various new skills. They were able to reevaluate and confirm their career choice to work in the international field of after sales services for industrial machinery.

Contact Prof. Dr. Dirk Stegelmeyer, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, +49 (0)69 1533-3946, stegelmeyer@fb2.fra-uas.de

NEWS AND EVENTS

Faculty of Health and Social Work is a Founding Member of a German-Jordanian University Network



From left: Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt (Frankfurt UAS), Jonas Bull (Trainee, Bachelor Program Social Work Transnational), Dr. Rawan W. Ibrahim and Dr. Sahar Almakhameh (Lecturers, GJU), Dr. Maha Ghatasheh (Head of the Institut for Family Health of the Noor al Hussein Foundation) and Prof. Dr. Ute Straub (Frankfurt UAS) in front of the German-Jordanian University.

Since 2013, Frankfurt UAS collaborates with the German-Jordanian University (GJU), Amman/Madaba; three faculties are already involved. In particular, Jordanian students frequently visit Frankfurt in order to study here for one semester in connection with a subsequent internship. With the participation of Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt and Prof. Dr. Ute Straub, professors of the Faculty of Health and Social Work at Frankfurt UAS, in an international workshop on the topic “Field training in social work for migrants and refugees”, which resulted in the formation of a German-Jordanian university network, the Faculty of Health and Social Work has now actively joined the partnership. Both professors had been invi-

ted not only because of their expertise, but also in order to determine the potential for further traineeships within the scope of the Frankfurt UAS study program “Social Work Transnational”. As a further result of the development, a new Master’s program at GJU that helps students to specialize in the work with refugees will be established in October 2017. A formally anchored exchange program between GJU, local NGOs, official social institutions of the government and German universities is supporting the project.

Contact Prof. Dr. Christine Huth-Hildebrandt, Faculty of Health and Social Work, +49 (0)69 1533-2814, huth@fb4.fra-uas.de

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Robot Soccer World Championship in Leipzig, Germany: Team FRA-UNITed Receives Several Awards

A total of 3500 attendees from more than 45 countries participated in “RoboCup 2016”, the Robot Soccer World Championship. The student team from Frankfurt UAS, FRA-UNITed, successfully participated in the simulation league of the Championship. It is a main objective of the activities of this team to apply artificial intelligence methods, agent-

based programming, and methods for the development of multi agent systems; the opportunity to enter an international competition and to practically apply scientific findings within the scope of the RoboCup Championship was thereby particularly compelling. ►

The team develops and studies algorithms and procedures that are capable of independent improvement. FRA-UNited's overall point balance shows seven victories, nine ties, and three defeats, with the goal ratio being 15:6 in their favor. In the end, the team came in eleventh on the whole. Coming in first in the category "Best Team Description Paper" was particularly rewarding for the team members; this award recognizes the innovative ideas implemented in their soccer playing software. According to tradition, the RoboCup Championship ends with the "RoboCup Symposium". The best 14

out of 70 submitted papers were presented to an audience of 300 members during the day of the symposium. This also included the contribution „Progress in RoboCup Revisited: The State of Soccer Simulation 2D“ by Prof. Dr. Thomas Gabel, Prof. Dr. Egbert Falkenberg, and Prof. Dr. Eicke Godehardt, professors of Frankfurt UAS.

Contact Prof. Dr. Thomas Gabel, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, +49 (0)69 1533-2538, tgabel@fb2.fra-uas.de

NEWS AND EVENTS

“Mobility 2100: Sharing – Necessity or Philosophy of Life” – Successful Conference in Frankfurt



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Petra Schäfer presenting her research results at the conference on May 11th, 2017.

These days it is difficult to imagine urban environments without sharing systems. For years, bicycle rental systems and

car sharing have been well-established elements of urban mobility. Beyond that, many innovative ideas which facilitate everyday requirements of mobility have been developed in recent years. The event “Mobility 2100”, which was organized by Fraport AG, focused on the topic of sharing this year; with regards to content, the conference was held under the direction of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Petra K. Schäfer, Frankfurt UAS professor at the Faculty of Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics and member of the research group “New Mobility”, for the seventh time. In consideration of the central question “Sharing – Necessity or Philosophy of Life?”, a diverse audience of more than hundred people from various political, economic, and scientific fields met on May 11th, 2017.

Contact Katharina Lux, Faculty of Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics, +49 (0)69 1533-2357, katharina.lux@fb1.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Frankfurt UAS Establishes Digitization Laboratory

Digitization is presently one of the key topics in our society, networking, collaboration, and electronic exchange being widely discussed issues. The Frankfurt UAS professional group “Logistics” commences the new semester by offering a digitization laboratory. Students as well as interested business companies will be able to experience digitization “live” by means of diverse exhibits. Students can undertake picking processes guided through play by voice (pick-by-voice) or by using augmented reality glasses (pick-by-vision) already now. Various sample applications demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of eight different augmented reality glasses loaned from Ubimax GmbH. The laboratory will be gradually expanded by adding “Industry 4.0” exhibits, which highlight the connection between mercantile software (SAP) and machines (control level), for example.



Jan Junker, CEO of Ubimax, showing how augmented reality glasses and pick-by-vision works.

Contact Prof. Dr. Kai-Oliver Schocke, Faculty of Business and Law, +49 (0)69 1533-3870, schocke@fb3.fra-uas.de

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Social Work Renders Important Services Concerning the Reduction of HIV Infections

On the occasion of the international World Social Work Day on March 21, 2017, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the AIDS relief organization of the United Nations, UNAIDS, released a joint publication which demonstrates the contribution of social work to meeting the “Getting to Zero” objectives of UNAIDS. UNAIDS strives to have reached the end of the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Besides numerous renowned authors and experts from Ethiopia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, the Caribbean, India, Mozambique, Scotland, South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the USA, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe, Prof. Dr. Heino Stöver, professor at Frankfurt UAS Faculty Health and Social Work, also

participated in this publication by contributing an article. In his article, Prof. Stöver evaluates the practical influence of social work on the improved care of drug addicts in Germany by providing comprehensive access to clean syringes or offering helpful psychosocial counseling to them. The publication “Getting to Zero: Global Social Work Responds to HIV” can be found at www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2017/global-social-work-responds-to-HIV

Contact Prof. Dr. Heino Stöver, Faculty of Health and Social Work, +49 (0)69 1533-2823, hstoever@fb4.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

An Integrated Approach to Preparing Refugees for Academic Studies Begins Now!

Drawing from Frankfurt UAS’ overall concept, the office of the president has devised “Guardrails” for an innovative approach to refugee education. The refugee project “Welcome

study course “Mechanical Engineering” to its participants. During the semester break, it also organizes pre-study industrial internships in collaboration with local businesses,



welcome crowd © Markus Mainka | Fotolia.com

Year Mechanical Engineering” focuses on topics such as cultivating an international outlook, open access to education, and especially, social responsibility. Frankfurt UAS has taken on the responsibility of handling the influx of refugees in Germany in the best manner possible by providing them with a perspective through education. Since the summer semester of 2016, Faculty 2 offers the “Welcome Year Mechanical Engineering” to people who have not been able to start or complete their study program in engineering in their home country due to war or persecution. The program offers advanced language courses, technical terminology lessons, and specialized courses as part of the first semester of the

which are mandatory for the study course “Mechanical Engineering”. The common objective of all participating parties is the refugees’ commencement of a study program at Frankfurt UAS, which is intended to offer a new beginning and to secure their professional future. The “Welcome Year” is a pilot project, which allows for professional, linguistic, practical, and social integration.

Contact Anja Ruhland, Coordinator „Welcome Year Mechanical Engineering“, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, +49 (0)69 1533-2256, willkommen@fb2.fra-uas.de

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Call for Collaboration!

“If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas.” (George Bernhard Shaw)



Are you interested in collaboration? Frankfurt UAS is offering excellent research and education in key areas such as Urban Mobility, Internet of Things, Smart Grids, Robotics/Automation, Ambient Assisted Living, Architecture, and Nursing and Health Management, among others. We always encourage requests for collaboration and the development of joint proposals for European funding and other support programs. Frankfurt UAS strongly believes in the value of international and European collaboration, which enables universities to implement excellent research, to learn from each other, and to pave the way towards lasting and valuable personal networks

between researchers. We have been involved in such collaboration projects, funded via Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Structural funds and other programs, for a long time. In February 2017, a new EU Research Liaison Officer joined the team of the department for Research, Education and Transfer. So if you are interested in discussing opportunities for collaboration, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Contact Anna Schlosser, EU Research Liaison Officer, Department for Research, Further Education and Transfer, +49 (0)69 1533-3175, schlosser.anna@fwbt.fra-uas.de

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President Prof. Dr. Frank E. P. Dievernich | Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
Nibelungenplatz 1 | D-60318 Frankfurt am Main | +49 (0) 69 1533-2415 | praesident@fra-uas.de

EDITORIAL STAFF

Andrea Janssen | Head of International Office | +49 (0) 69 1533-2735 | andrea.janssen@io.fra-uas.de
Kristiane Seidel | Head of Dept. for Research, Further Education and Transfer | +49 (0) 69 1533-2162 | seidel@fwbt.fra-uas.de

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