

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

As the new president of Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, I am excited to be at the helm of our institution on the route to further internationalization. As we strive to strengthen our core competencies in the field of internationalization, we will be pursuing the following themes in the years to come:

- Which institutions of higher education and interested constituents should we engage in strategic partnerships?
- Are students interested in international summer schools in languages other than English? Is there a market for this interest?
- How international are our alumni?

We hope you stay with us as we take the next steps forward in our international evolution!

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Dr. Frank E.P. Dievernich

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Local Surveying Supports Global Applications

The Laboratory for Industrial Metrology at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences is currently cooperating with the Onsala Space Observatory in Sweden and the Geodetic Observatory in Wettzell, Germany for projects in survey engineering and metrology. The stations support various space geodetic techniques, such as GPS/GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) and VLBI (Very-Long Baseline Interferometry), and are typically referred to as co-location stations. Research results are useful for navigation, global analyses in geodynamics, and deriving Earth rotation parameters. Furthermore, the global earth fixed coordinate system, also known as the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), is a result of combining space geodetic techniques. The terrestrial surveying taking place at these co-location stations provides important information about the geometric relationships between the techniques used and the increased reliability and accuracy of global results. The laboratory in Frankfurt initiates and further supports terrestrial surveying in both sites in Sweden and Wettzell. Students studying Geomatics and Public Work attend surveying campaigns to prepare for their final theses, providing an excellent example of the hands-on education practices at FRA-UAS.

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Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences



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NEWS AND EVENTS

Website Offers New Information on Jewish Nursing History

A new website, www.jewishnursinghistory.eu offers information about biographies, institutions, buildings, and sites of Jewish nursing history in and around Frankfurt. A research team, led by Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Ulmer, has been creating a scientific database, from which the website, www.jewishnursinghistory.eu, is derived. Members of the research team, Dr. Birgit Seemann and Dr. Edgar Bönisch, are compiling articles, indexed items and audio-visual media. Besides the Library and Faculty of Health and Social Work at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, institutions such as the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Ernst-Ludwig-Chambré Foundation are currently supporting this unique project. The project has also gained international interest from conferences in Cambridge (UK), Kolding (DK),

Jerusalem, and Vienna. Since September 2014, eleven more articles were translated into English for international users from the more complex German website, www.juedische-pflegegeschichte.de. The main goal of the project and website are to showcase research and information about the history of Jewish nursing in the context of German and European interests. Oral history and historical documents provide insight into Jewish nursing for teachers, students, researchers, and the public. Cooperation and funding partners are welcome for upcoming projects such as Jewish child care.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Success for Team “OnTop” at Solar Decathlon Europe 2014

The team “OnTop” recently represented Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences at the Solar Decathlon in Versailles. Universities from all over the world came together to design, build, and operate a full-scale, entirely functional solar-powered house. The competition requires teams to work on existing structures, and “OnTop” was assigned a residential unit. Using the designed structure, the team captured solar energy to be used in existing buildings, in response to the physical and social needs of Frankfurt’s urban environment. As part of Germany’s nationwide “energy transition” strategy towards the use of renewable types of energy, vacant rooftop areas, as well as gaps between already existing buildings, were filled with new structures. The roof areas of numerous buildings in Frankfurt from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s provided the perfect opportunity to supply the adjacent structures with renewable energy. The Solar Decathlon consisted of ten contests related to solar housing and is an excellent forum for students to carry out their ideas. A team of 50 students from different departments at Frankfurt UAS worked with their professors, sponsors, and various professionals for nearly two years to develop their construction. The sweat and tears from the FRA-UAS team paid off, as the team won 7th place overall in the competition and also won 1st prize for the best social housing concept. In addition, real interdis-



Construction “OnTop” at Solar Decathlon in Versailles.

ciplinary teamwork, experience working with sponsors, and the opportunity to present an organically developed idea to an international audience was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for most of the students who took part in the challenge.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING

Three Weeks of Hard Work and Fun for Students from Finland, Great Britain, Lithuania and Germany

The ERASMUS project “Active Games” brought together students and lecturers from four partner institutions including Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Vilnius Gedeminas Technical University (Lithuania), Coventry University

(Great Britain) and Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Thirty-eight electrical engineering and information technology students participated in the 10 ECTS-event from August 3 to 23 in Frankfurt. ▶

Four person teams, all of them made up of students from each university, controlled a race car in a computer game based on body movement and clothing sensors. Body movement data streams were generated and transmitted by a microcontroller to a computer, and students used their body movements instead of a joystick to play the game. During three weeks of morning lectures and afternoon labs the students learned to work with different microcomputer platforms and sensor applications. Local project leader Prof. Dr. Manfred Jungke and participating colleagues from the visiting universities were very

happy with the results: The project significantly contributed to preparing students to meet the challenges of their future workplace and to cooperate in international teams.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

RAPID PLANNING – Sustainable Infrastructure, Environmental and Resource Management for Highly Dynamic Metropolises

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences has recently become involved in a new research project for developing a trans-sectoral and integrated planning methodology for sustainable infrastructure and environmental and resource management in highly dynamic urban areas worldwide. Regardless of their social or political situation, fast-growing cities in emerging or developing countries face a similar challenge: There is a lack of reliable planning data. At the same time, rapid and efficient planning processes are required, to adapt to the rapid population growth and urbanization. In many areas, such cities are growing informally, without regulated planning processes. These urban areas face increased problems such as waste disposal and management, water supply and treatment, and energy provision. RAPID PLANNING is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and is a joint consortium of twelve German and international research partners. The project focuses on basic urban infrastructure, specifically targeting energy, water, waste water, solid waste, and urban agriculture. With Frankfurt am Main as a reference city, RAPID PLANNING cooperates with Da Nang, Vietnam, Kigali, Ruanda and Assiut, Egypt. The overall goal is to optimize the synergies between different infrastructure sectors, thus making infrastructure planning in rapidly growing cities much faster and more efficient, and ultimately



City Da Nang in Vietnam.

more beneficial for those living in urban centers. The project will run until 2019.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students Present Case Studies at 9th International Malaysian Study Conference in Kuala Terengganu

The results of a three years project on social rights, social justice and social policies were presented at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences during the summer program "International Encounters – Social Justice", and at the 9th International Malaysian Studies Conference in Kuala Terengganu. At Frankfurt UAS, students from Kabul University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Central University of Himachal Pradesh presented an overview of research findings from recorded narratives and how to apply the research findings in evidence-based policy designs. At the Malaysian Studies Conference an entire panel was dedicated to the project: Tamina Braunewell (FRA-UAS) presented a case study of an Afghan refugee woman in Germany; Shoab Haidary (Kabul University) shared ▶

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the perspective of an elderly Afghan woman banned from school during the Taliban era, and Aysah Jaffar (UKM) offered the case of a Tamil woman in Malaysia subjected to domestic violence. The case studies were framed with an introduction to the project and its methodology (Associate Prof. Kartini Khalid, UKM), reflections of participating students (Zaireeni Azmi, UKM), and an assessment of the various impacts on students and lecturers from Afghanistan (Associate Prof. Mariam Ahmadi, Kabul University). Currently, the case studies are being compiled and edited for a publication in Malaysia at the end of the year. Funding for the project was obtained through the DAAD.

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Prof. Dr. Oberlies at the conference in Kuala Terengganu.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

FRA-UAS Professor Participates in Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development

Prof. Dr. Ute Straub represented the Faculty of Social Work and Health from Frankfurt UAS at this year's Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development in Melbourne, Australia. The conference focused on promoting social and economic equality. This is the first aspect of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, set by the international umbrella organizations for social work. 1,500 visitors from all over the world contributed various perspectives on the development of international and transnational social work. International social work continues to be a politically active profession, and is active for instance in an advising function to various UN bodies. Professor Straub's presentation "Sharing circles- rendering ownership to families" explained internatio-

nal approaches to family support, developed partly from indigenous traditions. This presentation was representative of the new, global definition of social work, the adoption of which was an important part of the conference. This newly defined idea of social work encompasses diversity both in terms of clientele and the demands on education. Due to new parameters of social work, as represented in this conference, countries in the Global South now have a stronger influence and "internationality" is more balanced.

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