FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Professors at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences not only teach classes; they also work on projects in collaboration with international scientists and industry partners around the world. Whether at home or abroad, they are actively contributing to their fields. FRA-UAS Prof. Schocke, for instance, is developing a new energy-efficient luggage conveyor system, and Prof. Klein was a visiting professor at Osaka University in Japan, collaborating with scientists such as Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro, also known as the "superstar of robotics." Additionally, our students are given the opportunity to participate in international exchanges through upcoming summer programs. We hope you enjoy reading about what is new at FRA-UAS!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Frank E.P. Dievernich

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Visiting Professor Meets Superstar of Robotics in Japan

In March 2015, Prof. Barbara Klein was a visiting professor at Osaka University in Japan. There, Prof. Klein had the opportunity to work with the "superstar of robotics," Prof. Hiroshi Ishiguro. Prof. Ishiguro and his team at Osaka University and Advanced Telecommunications Research Institution (ATR) in Kyoto develop human-like robots such as androids, geminoids, telenoids, and elfoids. Prof. Ishiguro is well-known for developing robots that look like real people. Ten years ago, the talented professor created his robotic twin brother. Prof. Klein now had the opportunity to discuss projects evaluating the effects of TELENOID and Hugvie with experts in the robotics and healthcare sector and compare those to experiences in Germany. The robots studied by Prof. Klein are also commonly referred to as "telepresence robots," in which voice and movements of a remote operating person can be transmitted to the robot. For example, professionals or relatives who live far away can talk through TELENOID to a resident in a nursing care home. In the future, those working with these types of robotics hope to develop new forms of therapeutic approaches in order to stimulate emotion and enhance communication.

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Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Urban Agglomerations in Asia

Urban sustainability will be the main topic of a summer program at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) in Bangkok, Thailand. The program is offered through the university's international flagship graduate program, Urban Agglomerations. For the first time ever, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences will visit this partner institution from July 13th-29th, 2015. The study program is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and was initially planned last year, in 2014. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to the political instability in Thailand. However, this year, under the academic direction of Prof. Michael Peterek, six professors and lecturers from the faculty Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geomatic Engineering, along with three of their colleagues from KMITL, will give lectures about urban planning and development, sustainable transport, land management, water supply and sewage, as well as urban culture and universal design. The summer program will be offered for students from Thailand and neighboring countries, and is closely related to the topics taught in the Urban Agglomerations Master's Program at KMITL. The study program is an excellent opportunity to teach this topic in the Asian market and to highlight the study programs available at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences.

Günther

City Bangkok in Thailand.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Preventive Biomechanics for a Better Future

Since 1992, Prof. Gerhard Silber has been the director of the Institute for Material Sciences (IFM) at FRA-UAS. This institute focuses on complex material behavior, having a special interest in the mechanical description of human soft tissues such as skin, fat, and muscle groups as investigated within the scope of the LOEWE project "Preventive Biomechanics (PreBionics)". As part of the research conducted at IFM, computer calculations of 3D mechanical human models show the interaction of human soft tissues, cartilage, and bone with realistic support elements or transplants. Using this information, researchers gain important insights in improving or creating new implant systems. Current research projects include enhancing tourniquet cuffs, support systems, airplane and car seats, and hip prosthetics. Due to demographic changes, resulting in an increasingly aging society, research furthering the development and improvement of more durable hip prosthetics, for example, is of vital interest.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Delegation from Russia Learns About Real Estate and Urban Planning in Frankfurt

Following an invitation by Prof. Dr. Fabian Thiel, Professor of Real Estate Business and Property Appraisal, a delegation of real estate appraisers, surveyors, and urban planners from various cities in the Russian Federation visited Frankfurt in early May. In addition to visiting FRA-UAS, the group was hosted by the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Regional Association, Frankfurt City Planning Department, and the Hessian State Office of Land Management and Geo-information, amongst others. ▶

Notable scientists and experts from Germany gave presentations on the characteristics of real estate appraisal, spatial planning, and urban development law pertaining to the entire country and the local region. The main purpose of this trip to Frankfurt was mutual exchange on such current topics as liability law in the real estate business, geographical property appraisal, expropriation, and compensation, as well as spatial planning and subject planning, with a special focus on regional planning in Frankfurt and the greater Rhine-Main region.

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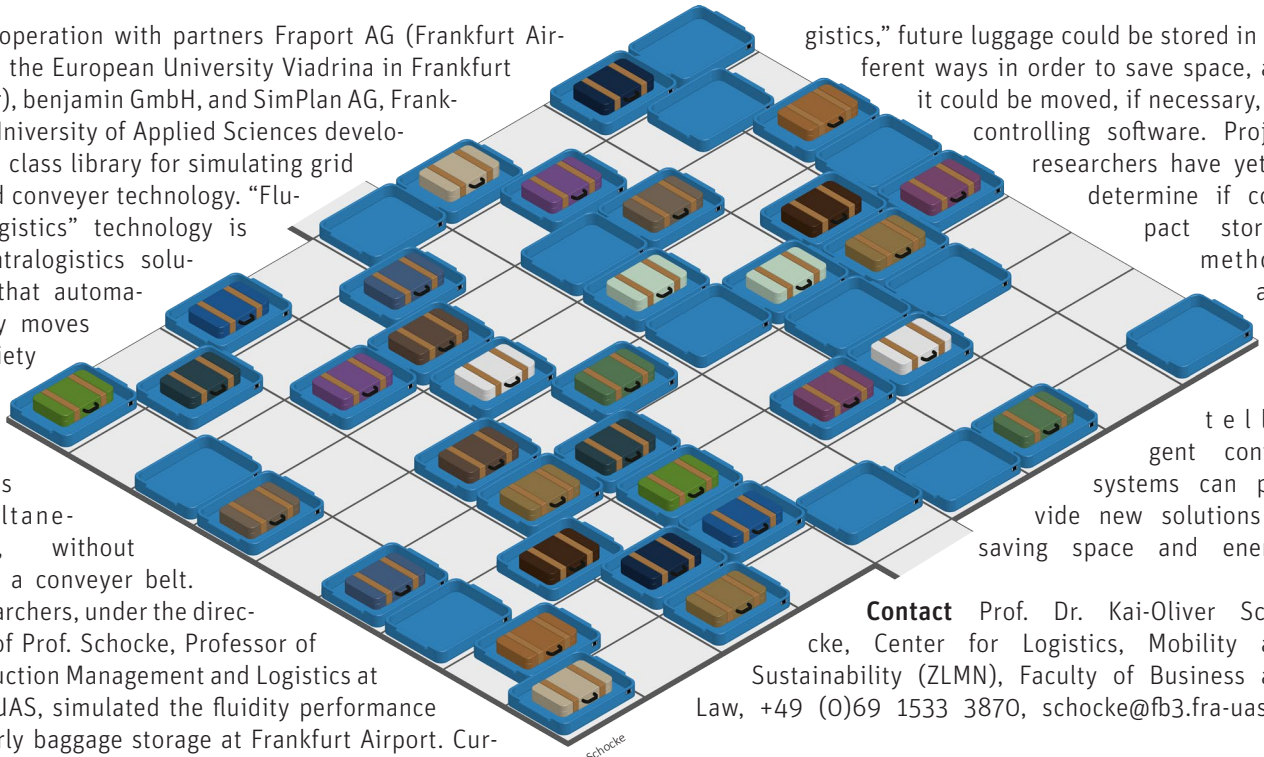
Thiel

Russian delegation visits Frankfurt and the greater Rhine-Main region.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovative and Energy Efficient Technological Developments for Baggage Handling in Europe‘s Third Largest Airport

In cooperation with partners Fraport AG (Frankfurt Airport), the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), benjamin GmbH, and SimPlan AG, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences developed a class library for simulating grid based conveyer technology. “Fluid logistics” technology is an intralogistics solution that automatically moves a variety of goods simultaneously, without using a conveyer belt. Researchers, under the direction of Prof. Schocke, Professor of Production Management and Logistics at FRA-UAS, simulated the fluidity performance of early baggage storage at Frankfurt Airport. Currently, airports use systems in which checked luggage is loaded onboard aircrafts in a constant motion. Using “fluid logistics,” future luggage could be stored in different ways in order to save space, and it could be moved, if necessary, via controlling software. Project researchers have yet to determine if compact storage methods and intelligent control systems can provide new solutions to saving space and energy.



Schocke

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Colombian Ambassador meets students at FRA-UAS

The Colombian Ambassador to Germany, H.E. Juan Mayr Maldonado, visited Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences in January 2015. The purpose of his visit was to promote an understanding of Columbian education and research systems, as well as to initiate contacts between German and Colombian universities. The International Office gave a short presentation about the university, existing activities with partner universities in Colombia, and services for international students. ▶

His visit was also a networking opportunity for Columbian students at FRA-UAS. Ambassador Mayr Maldonado was extremely interested in the students' decisions to study in Germany, their fields of study, their academic success, and any issues they encounter.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING

Guest Lecture on Facility Management by Edmond P. Rondeau

Rondeau

Edmond P. Rondeau

In late January of this year, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences warmly welcomed Edmond P. Rondeau, guest lecturer from the Georgia Institute of Technology, located in the United States. Rondeau is considered a pioneer in the Facility Management business. He has authored numerous articles and is coauthor of two books on corporate real estate and three books on facility management. Additionally, Rondeau was the President of the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) in 1988 and served as the Chair of the IMFA Foundation in 1990. Currently, he is the General Manager, Real Estate, in the Real Estate Development Office at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. While at FRA-UAS, Rondeau gave an introduction to Facility Management from the perspective of a leader in the field and facilitated a workshop, "Making good real estate decisions," based on case studies. Students attended his exciting lecture and took advantage of the opportunity to discuss the topic of facility management with a world-renowned expert. FRA-UAS considers Rondeau's guest lecture as an excellent starting point for further exchange with Georgia Tech and it's School of Architecture.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Harm Reduction in Prisons

Most prisons around the world have higher rates of infectious diseases in proportion to the general population. Additionally, prisons have a disproportionately high number of drug users. Due to a lack of sterile injection equipment and other prevention materials in prisons, HIV and Hepatitis B and C can easily be transmitted between inmates. In fact, shared injection equipment and unprotected sexual contact pose the greatest risks of transmitting HIV and Hepatitis in prisons. Like all humans, prisoners have a right to the highest possible standards of health. This right is guaranteed under international law. The project "Joint Action on HIV/AIDS and harm reduction – Improvement of HIV and co-infection prevention and treatment in priority regions and priority groups in the European Union," funded by the European Union, strives to improve the situations of inmates in most of the European Member States. FRA-UAS's Institute for Addiction Research (ISFF) will coordinate this program in order to help improve the health of those at risk in prisons.

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