

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

I hope you had a nice summer despite the current situation and spent your time well – even if you just stayed home. This year, our university starts the winter semester a little later than normal. But: What is normal these days anyway? In any case, the reports and stories in this newsletter are not only testimony to an exceptional situation, but also reflect normality and everyday life at Frankfurt UAS at least to some extent: Read about a group of students from Japan who were able to visit Frankfurt UAS just before the “lockdown”. We also report about a new endowed professorship at Frankfurt UAS, which thematically is concerned solely with the topic of bicycle mobility. Using a particularly compelling example, we furthermore show how teaching at Frankfurt UAS is often interlinked with practice. Please enjoy!

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Dr. Frank E. P. Dievernich

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Designing the Common City: U!REKA Urban Commons Lab Launches in Five Partner Cities

Climate change, accessibility and mobility, education, or housing – can government and politics by themselves solve the problems today’s urban communities are facing? More and more, active citizens, local initiatives, and interest groups are collaborating to create solutions. Urban gardening, book exchanges, or volunteer groups aiding elderly or disabled neighbours with their daily tasks are bottom-up initiatives that seek to effect change locally. Choosing „Urban Commons“ as a subject for a U!REKA Lab, a format the partners in the Urban Research Education and Knowledge Alliance are currently developing, therefore struck the U!REKA partner universities in Amsterdam, Ghent, Frankfurt, Helsinki, and Lisbon as obvious. This interdisciplinary, combined learning and research project explored how such initiatives influence decisions about the future of our cities. Due to the ongoing Corona pandemic, collaboration between student and faculty researchers in the different cities was conducted online. An exhibition documenting the international results of this first lab took place from June 16 to 21, 2020 at the German Werkbund Forum in Frankfurt. Future editions will include research excursions and summer universities. Find further information at <https://urcommons.eu>

Contact

Angelika Pluemmer
Faculty of Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics,
+49 69 1533-3002
Angelika.Pluemmer@fb1.fra-uas.de

Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

ChildRescue App Available Now



The EU-funded project ChildRescue has been researching the phenomenon of and current practices in response to the disappearance of minors

within the EU for three years. The objective of the project is to develop and introduce a platform and app which can help to

increase the number of found missing children by facilitating an exchange among humanitarian organisations and enlisting members of the public in the search via geo-targeted alerts in relevant local areas. The free app can be downloaded at www.childrescue.eu/download_app/; it is available for iPhone and Android-based smartphones. It has already been launched in Greece on July 28, 2020; Belgium will follow in August 2020, with other EU countries in line. The launch was prepared by the Frankfurt UAS social science team, namely Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein and Isabelle Brantl, in cooperation with technology partners. For more information, please visit www.childrescue.eu.

Contact Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein, Faculty of Health and Social Work, +49 69 1533-2877, bklein@fb4.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students at Frankfurt UAS: Shaping the Future of Mobility with Practical Knowledge

The mobility sector currently undergoes a process of significant transformation. Hoping to find innovative approaches to this development, Frankfurt UAS Faculty Business and Law opted to integrate this topic into its teaching. In the context of the bi-annual lecture series "Lean Management", Dr. Tobias Bornemann, both associate lecturer at Frankfurt UAS and Continental AG employee, strives to sensitize students of the study programs "Business Administration" and International Business Administration to topics of efficiency optimization of agile product development. In order to directly apply the students' learning experiences to the mobility sector, an additional period of practical study is required of them. During this phase, students deal with future topics of mobility such

as digitalization, autonomous driving, or e-mobility. Their concepts and findings are eventually presented in the plenum and are also discussed with specialists from Continental. In addition, an excursion to the production site of Continental AG in Frankfurt is offered regularly to enhance the students' knowledge and to enable their first connections into industry. This innovative lecture format can make a valuable contribution to the philosophy of Frankfurt UAS to connect with industrial companies and to establish sustainable cooperation.

Contact Dr. Tobias Bornemann, associate lecturer at the Faculty of Business and Law, tbornemann@fb3.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

University Assumes Social Responsibility: New Module of the Interdisciplinary Studium Generale Program Established

Reacting to the key challenges of the Corona crisis, Frankfurt UAS set up a new module of the interdisciplinary Studium Generale program which combines voluntary work with the receipt of credit points. Initially, the university's service learning and social commitment team had launched an appeal for social commitment in consultation with the university management and its cooperation partners from the practice (charities, associations, initiatives, and gGmbHs). Wishing to formally support the approximately 120 students who responded to the call and to reward their commitment in their regular studies, the new module was created in April 2020.

In order to successfully complete the module and receive five ECTS points each, the students had to complete at least 100 hours of voluntary work each in various fields of the non-profit sector. Of particular note within the scope of this module are several students who established a Corona Call Center in order to bring together helpers and those who seek help across the city.

Contact Philipp Senft, Chair of the coordination and advice center for service learning and social commitment, +49 69 1533-3893, philipp.senft@best.fra-uas.de

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Up To The Task: New Digital Skills for Health and Social Services



Kickoff meeting with all partners from Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, and Germany from January 27 to 28, in Athens.

Since January 2020, the project „DDSkills - Cutting-Edge Digital Skills for Professional Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities and Mental Health Problems“, which is funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership), has sought to provide health and social care professionals with the skills they need to master new technologies. The association of twelve European partners from Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Belgium, Ireland, and Lithuania is developing certified advanced training courses with respect to the application of digital assistance systems in the care of the disabled and elderly. In

so doing, the project wishes to enable more autonomy, participation, and safe living by involving telepresence robotics or virtual and augmented reality, for example. The project is attached to the interdisciplinary Frankfurt UAS research center FUTURE AGING and is being undertaken by Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein and Marina Weiland. Further information at www.ddskills.eu.

Contact Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein, Faculty of Health and Social Work, +49 69 1533-2877, bklein@fb4.fra-uas.de

NEWS AND EVENTS

Online Urban Transport Conference (UTC)



On September 24 and 25, 2020, Frankfurt UAS hosted the first international Urban Transport Conference. Organizer of the event was the Research Lab for Urban Transport (ReLUT). A high-caliber line-up of lecturers had been assembled for the event, which, due to the current Corona situation, was conceptualized as a web conference. National and international speakers gave talks in the following sessions: Urban logistics;

shared and public; relevance of data; autonomous on and above ground level. In addition to the lectures, so-called breakout sessions provided ample opportunity for networking even in a purely virtual setting. For more information, please visit <http://utc-frankfurt.com>.

Contact Prof. Dr.-Ing. Petra K. Schäfer, Executive Director, Research Lab for Urban Transport, +49 69 1533-2797, petra.schaefer@fb1.fra-uas.de

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Endowed Professorship for Bicycle Traffic at Frankfurt UAS



Federal Minister of Transport, Andreas Scheuer (2nd from left) hands over the certificate for the endowed professorship to Vice President Prof. Dr. Martina Klärle of Frankfurt UAS (foreground, 4th from right). From left to right: Klaus Dapp, Head of AGNH; Andreas Scheuer, Federal Minister of Transport; Ulli Nissen, MdB; Norbert Sander, Managing Director of the ADFC Hessen; Sandra Wolf, Managing Director of Riese & Müller GmbH; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Petra Schäfer, Professor of Transport Planning; Prof. Dr. Martina Klärle, Vice President of Frankfurt UAS; Dana Stolte, Research Associate of ReLUT; Zoe Winkler and Maximilian Kirchner, students of Frankfurt UAS.

Frankfurt UAS will be endowed with a newly-created professorship for bicycle traffic. Over the next five years, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure will support the establishment of several endowed professorships in Germany with a total volume of 8.3 million euros. It is the aim to firmly anchor the topic of bicycle traffic in research and teaching. Frankfurt UAS was able to convince with its concept for a professorship „Sustainable mobility, especially bicycle traffic“, in connection with the establishment of a

Master's program „Sustainable mobility“. The professorship is situated in an academic transitional area between mobility and logistics. In addition to the actual professorship, several scientific and administrative staff members are also to be funded.

Contact Prof. Dr.-Ing. Petra K. Schäfer, Executive Director, Research Lab for Urban Transport, +49 69 1533-2797, petra.schaefer@fb1.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Learning from Differences: A German-Japanese Exchange Project of Frankfurt UAS and Takasaki University of Health and Welfare

Japan and Germany are united by their rapidly ageing societies and the resulting issues. Both countries also ratified the UN Disability Rights Convention. In this context, the countries are facing major challenges, which ultimately make it necessary to adapt their social systems. But why face these tasks alone when you can also learn from one other? For three years now, a research and teaching cooperation has existed between Frankfurt UAS and Takasaki University of Health and Welfare in Japan. Students from both universities visit social institutions in the respective other country for one week and thus have the opportunity to exchange ideas with students there. Luckily, a Japanese delegation was able to visit Frankfurt UAS in mid-February despite the imminent Corona restrictions. Among other things, the Japanese guests visited the Innovation Lab 5.0 at Frankfurt UAS, the newly-inaugurated exhibition „Hello freedom! Together over

barriers“, an inclusive day-care center, the Frankfurter Tafel (Frankfurt Food Bank), and an advice center for single mothers and fathers. In addition to the academic exchange, there was also an opportunity to engage in cultural activities. A special highlight was the students' joint visit to a German soccer league match. In this context, a Japanese student expressed the fervent wish to watch a soccer match specifically of the 1. FSV Mainz 05 team. Scoreless 90 minutes did not deter her from flying home with a radiant smile and two fan scarves. Unfortunately, the German group of students could not go to Japan in turn due to the Corona crisis. However, a visit is already planned for next year!

Contact Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein, Faculty of Health and Social Work, +49 69 1533-2877, bklein@fb4.fra-uas.de

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Frankfurt UAS and Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology Plan Comprehensive Cooperation



A friendship spanning 7,000 kilometers linear distance: The Frankfurt UAS Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering recently signed a friendship agreement with Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology (RSET), one of the leading engineering colleges in Kochi, India. Provided that the pandemic-related restrictions allow such an undertaking, Frankfurt

UAS and RSET intend to establish, among other things, the first Indo-German summer school in engineering sciences at Frankfurt UAS in the upcoming semesters. Students from both universities will work together in a project module in the process. The focus of the project work will be on topics such as smart energy or the use of recycled materials, as RSET has set up the „Centre for Smart City Technologies“ along with the Essen-based Steag Corporation to research precisely such future issues. The participation of a team comprised of Indian and German students in a so-called „Robot Challenge“ is also being considered - the Frankfurt UAS mechatronics branch has a long tradition with respect to projects involving the construction of robots for international competitions after all.

Contact Prof. Dr. Karsten Schmidt, Vice Dean, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering, +49 69 1533-2219, schmidt@fb2.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 69 1533-2415 | praesident@fra-uas.de

EDITORIAL STAFF

Andrea Janssen | Head of International Office | +49 69 1533-2735 | andrea.janssen@io.fra-uas.de
Kristiane Seidel | Head of Dept. for Research Innovation Transfer | +49 69 1533-2162 | seidel@fit.fra-uas.de

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