Dear Alumna, dear Alumnus of the Master Program Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics of Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences,

Another busy year has almost passed by. Thus let me take the chance to send you season’s greetings and all my best wishes for the New Year. I wish you and your family strong health, a lot of happiness and both work and personal success in 2015.

To keep you informed about what is going on at HFT, here some updates.

Meanwhile we have fulfilled all the requirements of the DAAD, thus we are back as full member of the DAAD program development related post-graduate study programs (in German it is called Entwicklungsbezogene Postgraduiertenstudiengänge or shortly EPOS – maybe you will stumble upon this abbreviation in the future). Together with the DAAD we will award 7 to 9 scholarships to the most promising applicants each year. Here we will need your help in the future – to spread the information about the study program and the scholarships we are counting on your commitment! We are planning an additional marketing campaign in springtime 2015 where we like to involve you even more by sending flyers and posters for your disposal. Updated information about the course you will find on our homepage www.master-pg.hft-stuttgart.de. Meanwhile we have also started our online preparation course successfully, so new students have the chance to brush up their basic knowledge about mathematics, statistics, remote sensing, GIS, etc. in advance.

In our body of lecturers there was a change – to be more precise the change is not finished yet. Prof. Dr. Mönicke, our Dean, some of you may remember him also from his lectures in the Planning, Organization and Management module, has retired. The process of the replacement is still going on – I am optimistic that a new colleague will start as lecturer in the coming springtime.

In October this year we started with a new batch of 24 students. Thus we have nearly reached our goal to fill all 25 study places. The senior students are just now working very hard on their thesis projects. Let me take the chance to remind you that we are very happy for any thesis topic suggestions – in particular in the context of real world projects from any company or in collaboration with any research institution – just send me an email.

For those working in the academic field let me mention also the new Erasmus + program of the European Commission which supports any cooperation not only between European Universities but also the Eastern neighbouring countries of the EU plus Latin America, Asia and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. So if you have any ideas about cooperation – just contact me.

In this context I want to mention the re-invitation program for the former DAAD scholarship holders. Please check the DAAD homepage for the specific requirements to stay for some weeks at HFT for some research – or some individual advanced training program. There is also some small budget available from HFT to invite Alumni (not related to DAAD) to give some seminar or workshop for the actual students – if someone of you is interested, please let me know. The budget will cover the travel cost plus some daily allowance.

I would like to thank all those who have sent some job offers for graduates. We have forwarded all of them to the Alumni-group. I think this is really a good example to show your still ongoing bond to the study program Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics.

Only some weeks ago we have had our AGSE – Alumni conference here at HFT Stuttgart – also to celebrate the 15th anniversary of our course program. In my opinion it was a very interesting and successful – even so a small – conference. Thus I want to thank the
organizers – Prof. Dr. Behr and his crew. Some of the presentations given on the first day of the conference have been recorded and streamed by the DAAD. You may have a look at them via the DAAD Alumni portal, (see https://www.alumniportal-deutschland.org/community/pg/groups/2773847/stdte-im-wandel/ after registration in the portal). This is also the chance to join the AGEP group in the Portal - the German Association of Postgraduate Programmes with special Relevance to Developing Countries. This is the group for all alumni related to the EPOS program – a cross section of many different study directions. You should check this group regularly – as in the future some more webinars will be offered, which maybe will be of your interest.

Next year we are planning to have the AGSE conference in Nepal – tentative date in October 2015. Please set already a mark in your Calendar! Depending on the facilities, we are planning to include webinars again for all those who will be not able to participate in person.

If you are not just visiting our homepage but visiting Germany itself, please don't forget to come to Stuttgart and the HFT. Just drop in – as some of you did this year, you are welcome anytime!

In behalf of all colleagues and staff members engaged in the course Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours Sincerely

Dietrich Schröder