

SimTech PhD Weekend 2013

6th - 8th of September 2013

Location: Burg Wernfels, Germany

www.burg-wernfels.de



The PhD weekend is an outstanding opportunity to support the communication and the interdisciplinary collaborations between members of the graduate school. It offers the chance for a get-together of experienced PhD students and new SimTech associates. The participants of the PhD weekend get to know each other, socialize, and exchange helpful tools and techniques relevant for their successful and efficient every day work.

The motivating principles of the weekend are the exchange of knowledge and best practices that are frequently used by participating PhD students in the course of their research. Selected workshops are offered by guest speakers to train skills essential during and after the PhD project. The goal of the workshops is to enhance work efficiency, skills in presenting ideas, and to support interdisciplinary collaborations.

Quick Summary:

This year, we welcomed 25 Participants at ‘Burg Wernfels’, a hostel in Franken. Over the course of 2.5 days we had time for student presentations and offered three different workshops ranging from a speed reading seminar to a presentation workshop and an introduction to effective communication at the workplace. In the following, we present an overview of the general schedule, activities, and the guest speakers.



Schedule:

Friday, 09/06/13	
Time	Program
14:00 - 17:00	Arrival
17:30 - 17:45	Welcoming
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner
19:00 - 19:30	30sec Madness
19:30 - 20:30	Presentations
from 20:00	Get Together
Saturday, 09/07/13	
Time	Program
07:45 - 09:00	Breakfast buffet
10:00 - 12:00	Seminar: Speed Reading (Part 1)
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 15:00	Seminar: Speed Reading (Part 2)
16:00 - 18:00	Social Activity ("Die Pflugsmühle")
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner
From 19:00	Get Together
Sunday, 09/08/13	
Time	Program
07:45 - 09:00	Breakfast buffet
09:00 - 12:00	Seminar 1: Facilitation (Part 1)
	Seminar 2: Communication Coaching (Part 1)
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	Seminar 1: Facilitation (Part 2)
	Seminar 2: Communication Coaching (Part 2)
14:00 - 14:15	Conclusions
15:00	Departure

Opening presentations:

At the beginning of the opening presentations, each participant shortly introduced him/ herself and the respective field of research. Afterwards, the PhD students had the opportunity to present helpful tools important for their work. Christoph Grüniger from the Department of Hydromechanics and Modelling of Hydrosystems explained important basics and tricks in the vector graphic language Tikz. MPT, a Matlab toolbox for multi-parametric programming was introduced by Christian Feller from the Institute for Systems Theory and Automatic Control. Max Schwilk, PhD student at the Institute of Theoretical Chemistry, gave a presentation in inter-process communication.

Workshops:

A workshop in Speed Reading was given by Jonas Ritter for all participants of the PhD weekend. The other two workshops, presented by Anja Mebus and Ludwig Preller, were simultaneous and therefore the group was split in two. In the following, a short impression of the guest speakers is given.

Jonas Ritter: Workshop in Speed Reading

Jonas Ritter is developer and trainer for modern learning strategies, successful book author and expert in speed-reading technique and rhetoric. After increasing his own reading velocity remarkably, he read more than 500 books in the field of learning research and developed a simple and effective training program for a better exploitation of the brain potential.



<http://www.ritterspeedreading.de/>



Ludwig Preller: Workshop in Facilitation

After his university education in business administration at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Ludwig Preller studied technology management at the center for digital technology and management (CDTM). He is founder and manager of the CLEVIS group, a HR process consulting and market research company. At the same time, he is a founder and active member of the “Make a Start up Angel Funds”. He established already various companies in the field of service industry. Besides that, Ludwig Preller gives lectures in entrepreneurship at several German universities.



<http://www.clevis.de/>

Anja Mebus: Workshop in Communication

Together with others, it is easier to find out what our personal needs and goals are. Out of this conviction, I chose the occupation as a coach. All my tools are based on an appreciative and accepting attitude. The nonviolent communication leads on to clarity and profundity, in relation to ourselves and to others. The focus of solution-orientated coaching is on the resources of the clients in order to build up room for facility and confidence. A new and special enrichment of my work is the method 'THE WORK' discovered by Byron Katie. With help of this method, 'mind knots' can be solved easily and an unexpected feeling of freedom arises.



<http://www.anjamebus.de/>



Socializing

As social event we had a walk to the 'Pflugsmühle', a typical Franconian beer garden with local food and drinks. In addition, the PhD students were able to get together while playing swing and miniature golf in small groups. Thereby the groups were mixed between the different institutions existing in SimTech to foster exchange between students from different institutions on a social level.



Acknowledgements:

The organizers of the weekend would like to thank the SimTech Executive Board of Directors for the possibility to arrange the PhD weekend and for the financial support. We also thank the SimTech Management Team, especially Barbara Teutsch, for the help regarding to the organization.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the three guest speakers and thank for the time and for very interesting and impressive workshops.

Last but not least we would like to thank all participants of the weekend for the active cooperation, interesting conversations and the good time.

Organizers of the weekend:

Tilman Dingler, Institute for Visualization and Interactive Systems (VIS)

Stefan Schneegaß, Institute for Visualization and Interactive Systems (VIS)

Dirke Imig, Institute for Systems Theory and Automatic Control (IST)