

# AFECO Monthly Newsletter

## October 2018

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### **AFECO DAY! Friday, October 12th 2018**

Class information, BOWACO double-degree insights, alumni testimonials and much more, don't miss the AFECO official welcome day! End the day at the annual BBQ with your fellow students and professors, meeting new classmates and reconnecting with the old. Please send Manuela and email confirming your attendance at the BBQ at [mmer@uni-bonn.de](mailto:mmer@uni-bonn.de) Welcome to AFECO, and to those students returning, welcome home!

### **Movie Night**

Join fellow AFECO students at the Woki (Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz 1-7) English Sneak Peak on Monday, October 29th at 8:30pm. Grab some popcorn and kick back with some classmates to see a yet to be released English language movie.

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### **ILR Seminar:**

#### **“Nutrition Security and Optimal Dietary Intake in Taiwan”**

Please join Professor Ching-Cheng Chang and Professor Shih-Hsun Hsu from the National Taiwan University for a discussion about the aging population of Taiwan and how the prevalence of obesity and dietary-diseases has become an urgent issue in developing countries health policies. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, October 17th, 2018 at 3:30pm in the computer room (ground floor, room 0.010) in Nussallee 21.

### **Get your workout on at Uni Bonn**

Don't forget to sign-up for the sport programs offered through the Uni at a discounted price for Uni Bonn students. Classes range from badminton to salsa dancing to some good ole' football. Registration begins on Thursday, October 4th, classes fill up quickly so click [here](#) to see course options and further details. Before registering be sure to [purchase](#) the required 15 Euro semester card that allows you to participate in the courses as well as your matriculation number (student ID) to be sure to qualify for the student discount.

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### **Internship and Job Opportunities**

[Doctoral researcher \(F/M\)](#), Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF),  
Deadline: October 10, 2018

[Student Assistant \(Studentische Hilfskraft\)](#), Center for Development Research (ZEF).

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## ILR testimonial: Christoph Pahmeyer (PhD candidate)

As Master's students it's hard to know the next step after AFECO but a choice that a handful of students consider is pursuing a PhD. I sat down with Christoph Pahmeyer, a current PhD student in the Economic Modeling of Agricultural Systems Group under Dr. Britz to discuss the path that led him to pursuing his PhD and advice he would give current AFECO students about doing a PhD. His academic journey is perhaps not radically different than that of our AFECO peers. Having studied agricultural science in Bonn for his Bachelors and then onto the AFECO program for his Masters, his PhD position was offered to him in his last semester of AFECO:



"I was writing my Master's thesis in the modeling group and I was doing a good job with it. Professor Britz came up to me and asked me to speed up my Master's thesis process because there was a project coming up that he planned to work with me on."

With this natural segue into his PhD, the fast pace of research at the PhD level was an adjustment, so a passion for the PhD topic was a necessity:

"Research can quickly become obsolete, so we basically write three Master's theses in three years. So you really need to figure out if you like the topic enough to cope with that, so that's the struggle."

Having a strong interest in the PhD project was something that Christoph mentioned as critical several times as critical for success:

"If you're really passionate about what you research then you don't need to worry about doing a PhD. But if you force yourself to pursue something just because you think there is the job market out there for it I wouldn't recommend that. Focus on what you love and work hard, if you love research then a PhD is the right thing for you."

Asked how to get one's foot in the door to be considered for a PhD position he said:

"Let's say it's your plan to do a PhD, and you feel really passionate about something, it definitely helps if you get a student assistant job in the chair you're looking to do your PhD with. Even though this may sound unfair your professors, PhDs and PostDocs will know you from that and that position will put you in the foreground. So if you see a student assistant job open in a chair that you're really interested in, go for it."

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## We want you to contribute!

This is a student run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be on a recurring basis or one time, please contact Manuela or Alex at [afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de](mailto:afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de). If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, going-ons around town or advice for first year AFECO students that you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard!