

# FERIENAKADEMIE 2018

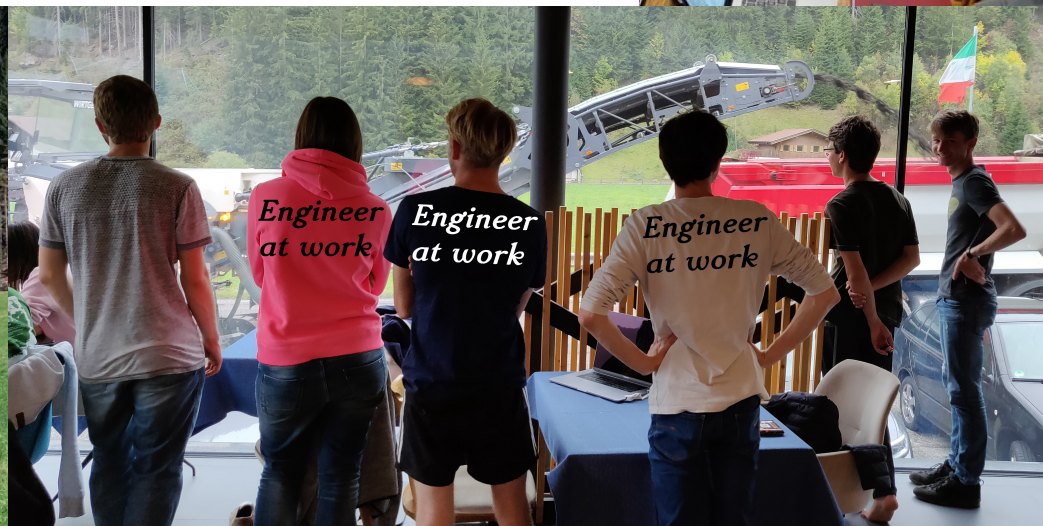


Report by Jack Henschel

Like most students visiting the Ferienakademie for the first time, I didn't quite know what to expect. Would this mostly be a university lab course during the semester break? Would this mostly be a leisure event? What kind of people will be there? Can we decide ourselves what to do? To be honest, it turned out to be a perfect mix.

I was part of the course "SarntalX: Agile Aircraft Design" organized by Professor Bernd Brügge, Professor Stefan Wagner, Mariana Avezum and Andreas Seitz. Our goal was to extend the functionality of commonly available consumer drones to aid in rescue scenarios. In particular we investigated mountain incidents such as snow avalanches with the help of our guest lecturer and domain expert Alan Apt from Ignite Adaptive Sports, Colorado. Our course was split into several teams to guide the agile development process: machine learning (for object and person detection), geographical information systems, 3D printing, drone flight control and victim localization. The architecture team took care of bundling all of the above efforts.

After the first week we received a visit from Airbus Space & Defense, the main project sponsor. We showed our trailer and live demos to Dieter Schmidbauer and Michael Gotzens who were impressed by the progress we achieved in such little time. They suggested to focus more on integrating our efforts into a single deliverable, which we promptly did during the second week.



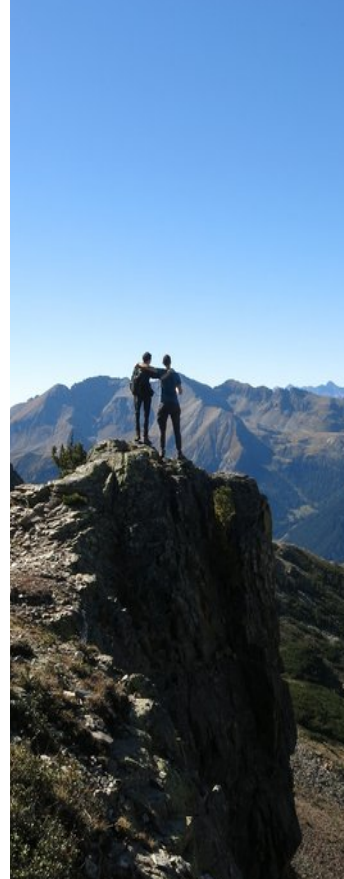




Though Ferienakademie was by far not only work. Several exhausting full day hikes were followed up with sessions in the sauna and whirlpool. Other activities included exploring the valley, playing table tennis (including the infamous Feldrand fan club), games nights, Törgellen and eating excellent Kaiserschmarrn. The only thing that came up short was sleep, but that was tolerable.

As the Ferienakademie is jointly organized by FAU Erlangen, TU Munich and University Stuttgart, I met a lot of new, amazing and motivated people – to me the greatest feature of the Ferienakademie. Our group had an awesome vibe, was always up to have fun and countless entertaining stories were shared. I will definitely meet some of the fellows again!

The hikes in Sarntal were absolutely astonishing and breathtaking – in both meanings of the word. No leveled or even paved hiking routes, just honest hiking over rocks, creeks, roots and dirt. But the feeling once you have finally reached the peak is just indescribable – and the pictures don't do the dimensions and depth justice. To our delight the weather was fantastic during our two week stay in Sarntal, so we could enjoy fantastic views even during our toughest hikes through the Sarntal Alps.



## What an incredible trip Ferienakademie 2018 has been!

