

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

23 AUGUST 2010

Welcome to Luxembourg!

This crazy document that you're reading right now is the infamous 'Monday Morning' newsletter! Expect a new one each (you guessed it) Monday Morning, here on the dining room tables and on the blog. **Take the time to read it so you know about all the important things that are happening here at the Chateau and all around Luxembourg!**

MUDEC Events

HOST FAMILY BBQ PROCTORS

Interested in making a little extra scrilla this week? Our chef extraordinaire, Stephan, needs a few helpers to assist with our host family BBQ on Friday. **The first seven to contact Kelley will get 10 EUR for their services!**



'LETTUCE' EAT

Did you sign up for the vegetarian lunch option? **Be sure to visit the oh so wonderful Fanny to pick up your vegetarian ticket starting Thursday!** No ticket? No vegetarian meal! Her office is located by the printer on the ground floor.



STUDENT COUNCIL!

Interested in making this semester unforgettable? Think about running for the Student Faculty Council!

The positions are Co-Chairperson,

Community Outreach, Treasurer/Secretary, and two Activity Coordinators. Email Kelley to nominate yourself. One minute speeches and voting will take place during lunch on **Wednesday, September 1st**.

FACULTY

TOWN HALL REGISTRATION

A little head's up: to become street legal here in Luxembourg, you will have to register with your town hall by **August 27th**! Stay tuned for more details during the Housing Coordinator speech.

BLOG

Check the MUDEC Musings daily for announcements, cultural opportunities and other fun things to keep in you 'in the know' on all things Luxembourgish! The link to the blog will be on the left column of the official Dolibois Center website.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR

Friday, September 3rd, is the first Discovery Tour! We will be exploring the Belgian Ardennes, a region rich with culture, Friday afternoon and returning to Luxembourg Friday evening. **All are invited to join this FREE tour!** Interested in doing a little traveling as well? The bus will drop you off at the Arlon train station early Friday evening if you'd like to continue your weekend travels!



GET YOUR WI-FI FIX...

If you brought your laptop with you to Luxembourg, **bring it with you to the Library and IT presentation this week.** Our IT guru, Laurent, will help you configure your computer so you can use the Wi-Fi next week!

CELL PHONE RENTALS!

Need a European cell phone this semester? Sign up for the cell phone raffle outside Kelley's office! **The lucky winners will get a cell phone for a 30 EUR deposit that will be refunded at the end of the semester with the return of the cell phone!**



DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

Welcome to the John E. Dolibois Center, to Luxembourg, to Differdange and to Europe!

Live, learn, discover... When I asked at the beginning of my tenure as Dean of the John E. Dolibois European Center which words encompassed the experience we wanted for our Luxembourg Campus, these words offered themselves to our reflection. To this day, I still believe they cover much of what our purpose, and more important, our spirit is about.

Going abroad, if only for a semester, but even more significantly for those who commit themselves for a year, is a changing experience. There is of course the natural element of personal development that higher education aims at triggering in everyone. It is still truer on a campus taught by a remarkably multinational faculty coming from Belgium, France, Germany and, of course, Luxembourg and offering the students the knowledge and the experience of diverse professional and academic backgrounds.

This academic experience combines with the discovery of a radically new environment. As no one exactly leads the same life as her or his neighbor, everybody experiences this change in a very personal way. But we all change. Some like to stay in the little bubble that Miami creates in Luxembourg: for them our program is a way to discover life and cultures abroad without stepping too far away of the comfort zone. They enjoy being in one of the safest countries in the world and in an American-organized environment. Some have a more touristy approach, and bear in mind a check list of places borrowed from their guidebooks or friends who tell them what they “absolutely” should do. For others, more adventurous or curious, our program offers a unique possibility to interact with the others, meet people, learn languages, and learn to communicate even when you do not share the same language.

For many, their stay in Luxembourg will be remembered as a prime moment of autonomous adult life, with the typical requirements of balancing leisure and hard work, organization and improvisation, of acquiring new skills, or becoming aware of hidden talents that only needed the right opportunity to flourish. For all, it is the challenge of being opened, curious, tolerant either to locals or (more than often) to fellow American students as well as to be exposed in class to different teaching styles, a different rhythm in life as in work. This is why the bond that ties our community is particularly strong. Many alumni told me, sometimes years after they attended the program, that they had met their best friends at the Dolibois Center.

As you see, in the Luxembourg program, living is learning, learning is discovering.

This is why a signature feature of our program, entirely taught in English (with the natural exception of the mandatory language classes in French or German) is the two study tours courses that students have to take every semester. We want to seize the opportunity of applying the formal knowledge acquired in class to the world that surrounds us, and to the rich diversity and history of Europe. For this purpose, Luxembourg is an ideal location. Surrounded by Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg also easily connects to the whole continent, beyond these immediate bordering countries.

The richness of our program is also illustrated by a fact which is too little known: the Dolibois Center is one of the largest American study abroad programs in Europe. Every year more than 280 students enroll in the spring and fall semesters or the summer term and around a hundred students visit with programs hosted by the Center at some point for a few days or for a few weeks.

The Center is also a magnet program for faculty: every year, over 10 professors come from Miami to teach classes along with European faculty—whether Belgian, French, German or... Luxembourgish—at the Dolibois Center. These quick figures show how significant Miami University's engagement in Europe is and compares to bigger consortiums which associate many universities in one program abroad.

What will the future of the John E. Dolibois center look like? I do not pretend to indulge in oracles. But I am convinced that our future connects to a simple fact: Luxembourg is the best place ever to be “an engaged university”.

The ambition of the Luxembourg program is to enrich the “Miami experience” by empowering students with more autonomy in their education, by developing in-class learning with out-of-class teaching, and providing tangible outcomes such as academic competences as well as intangible ones—all that we recognize as part of our personal growth.

Our task for the future is to expand this ambition, to enhance it, to make it more visible in our curriculum and the expectations we have for it.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

30 AUGUST 2010

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This **Wednesday, September 1st**, is our first exciting (and mandatory!) Wednesday Activity! Please be in the **Dining Hall promptly at 17:00** to hear an interesting lecture from MUDEC Professor **Emile Haag** about the history of Luxembourg!



BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD...

Excited to begin your semester of adventure? A little overwhelmed about traveling in Europe? **This Tuesday, August 31st at 20:30, in the dining hall, Kelley** will give a little presentation about all things planes, trains and hostels!

STUDENT FACULTY COUNCIL!

Interested in making this semester unforgettable? **Think about running for the Student Faculty Council!** Email Kelley to nominate yourself. One minute speeches and voting will take place during lunch on **Wednesday, September 1st**.



CACTUS RUN!

Interested in checking out Cactus, Luxembourg's version of Wal-Mart? On **Thursday, September 2nd**, we will be taking a group trip to discover everything this store has to offer! **Meet outside Kelley's office at 17:10 – we'll be taking the 17:25 bus!**

DISCOVERY WEEKEND EVENT!

Are you a scavenger hunt shark? Then think about sticking around Luxembourg on **Saturday, September 11th**, to participate in Discover Luxembourg, an exciting scavenger hunt that takes you all around the city, participating in crazy challenges! **The Center will sponsor two teams of four (on a first come, first serve basis) so come talk to me if you're interested!**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes out to **Colin Haffy** (Aug. 30) and **Kelly Knapke** (Sept. 1)!

A note from our Dean...

ATTENDANCE POLICY—JOHN E. DOLIBOIS EUROPEAN CENTER.

Attendance policy at the center is regulated by two subsections of the Student Handbook: the General Attendance Policy (1.9.A) and the Miami University John E. Dolibois European Center (MUDEC) Attendance Policies (1.9.B). The latter determines some specific requirements of the Center, such as a minimum 16 credits enrollment. It rules that students should attend all their classes and that "absences may not exceed the total number of credit hours of the course in question" with a maximum of 180 minutes.

Beyond this, a student may be dropped from the class, and possibly suspended from the program if this causes to drop below the 12 credits that are admissible in the program. Appeals can be made to the Committee of Advisers.

As per the section 1.9.A, instructors are in charge of enforcing attendance policy in their class. While section 1.9.B nullifies the rule of section 1.9.A about removing students after the completion of 20% of their program (hence in the 3rd week of our program) it does not mean that not attending up to 3 classes (in a 3 credits class) is fine: absences limit the necessary exposure to class material and class discussions, and disorganize the rhythm of learning. They harm the GPA in a more direct fashion: one may be downgraded from the first absence on, according to rules stated in each individual syllabus. The 3 hours rule simply means that within this margin, one is not forced out of a class and of the program.

Please note that though the attendance policy covers *all cases*. So, do not "bank" your absences, as you never know if you will be sick, delayed, or stuck in a snow storm...

All absences must be excused, though excuses do not imply that one will not be downgraded. Individual cases are always taken into account as per section 1.9.A.

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



From the Dean's letter to the Monday Column

An institution by itself

The *Monday Morning* is such a venerable institution of the Dolibois European Center that it has become a timeless reference—so timeless indeed that the “*Monday*” *Morning* has often known Tuesday releases. So timeless, also, that its history is still little known. Some day our historians will have to take a good dive into the archives and retrace its saga.

Until last year, the *Monday Morning* had an official existence in the *Student Handbook* as “the weekly student information guide”. The *Handbook* also requested the Dean to publish every semester a statement of policy as regards to attendance (you will find it on the front page). This sole testimony of the *Monday Morning* institutional existence at Miami University has disappeared from the 2010 edition. It does not mean that the *Monday Morning* ceases to exist: it will continue to be the weekly link between the Dolibois Center, the students, and the large community of friends of the Center who keep an interest in its activities.

A new Monday Morning

It is nevertheless a good opportunity to think about what we want to do with the *Monday Morning*. As we are catching up with technology thanks to a new Website

(<http://www.units.muohio.edu/luxembourg/>), some of the traditional roles of the *Monday Morning* are better fulfilled electronically. Information about what is going on in Luxembourg is now provided, with more details, by the *MUDEC Musings* Blog. An idea of Kelley Engelbrecht last year, the blog is now fully integrated in the Center's Website. The *Monday Morning* also served as a weekly reminder.

The digital screens that made their appearance last year thanks to the support of the Provost office, now allow broadcasting more information—in *real time* instead of once a week—thanks to our IT specialist, Laurent Peters.

The vocation of the *Monday Morning* is now less to be the “student information guide” than the weekly contact between the Center, the students and the large audience it enjoys beyond the (beautiful) walls of the castle. It has to specialize in this role to keep its interest.

The end of the Dean's letter

The overall organization of the *Monday Morning* remains the same. We keep the two page format and its distribution between the weekly highlights on the front page and the editorial text on the back. The change is about the content: the front news are now focused on the rich activity of the Center, from the weekly mandatory meetings to the numerous goings-on organized by the Student Activity Coordinator. A more radical change regards the editorial content with no less than the end of the “Dean's letter”.

While I enjoy very much writing my weekly column (as I hope readers enjoy reading it!), the risk on the long run is a monotonous tone. The Letter used to be a necessity when the Dean had few options for his communication (including about unpleasant disciplinary reminders). This is now the role of emails, only a few of them being issued by the Dean. For this reason, it is time to switch from the Dean's letter to an editorial column, with multiple guest authors and multiple perspectives.

The John E. Dolibois European Center is dedicated to the promotion of a global world in all its diversity. It is a good thing that the *Monday Morning* reflects this ambition.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

6 SEPTEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

Go to www.muohio.edu/luxembourg and click on MUDEC Musings.

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This week our exciting (and mandatory) Wednesday activity will be an event planned by the new Student Faculty Council! Meet in the dining hall at 17:00, **Wednesday September 8th**. Stay tuned for more details...

WEEKEND DISCOVERY TOUR: DISCOVER LUXEMBOURG!



Interested in learning more about Luxembourg City? This **Saturday, September 11th**, the city is hosting a

massive scavenger hunt through the city, with challenges, prizes and an after party! The Center will sponsor two Miami teams of four, first come first serve. Email Kelley if you are interested!

DOCTORS, X-RAYS, EMBASSIES...

Just a little reminder to take care of your doctor's appointments, X-rays and TB injections (yup, you have to do both thanks to new regulations from the Ministry) by **Friday, September 17th** or your

internet will be blocked. If you are currently without internet, stop by Assistant Dean Manes' office! That just means he needs your John Hancock on a form so you can register with the US Embassy in Luxembourg. **Any questions? Stop by Crici's office!**

DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR PREVIEW: THE GERMAN MOSEL REGION!

Friday September 17th we will be taking our first over Discovery Weekend overnight excursion! Highlights of the trip include a visit to the **German castle of Burg Eltz, wine tasting on the Mosel and a boat tour on the Rhine**. Stay tuned for more details... The **deadline to sign up** will be Friday, **September 10th**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes out to **Felicia Jordan** (Sept. 6), **Jessica Smith** (Sept. 8), **Micky Osterman** (Sept. 11) and **Elliot Zetzer** (Sept. 12)



MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



Who's afraid of Luxemburgish?

This is the title of a book about learning Luxemburgish and written by *Jul Christophory* who, among other activities, was a professor at MUEC at a time when it was not yet the *Dolibois Center*. The language has indeed the reputation of being difficult to

learn, difficult to understand because Luxembourgers “grumble into their beards” and difficult to speak because the grammar is so complicated and there are so many words...

The language is classified among the West-Germanic languages as a Middle German dialect called *Moselle Franconian* and developed within the area between Coblenz and Trier. In his conference about Luxembourg last Wednesday, Prof. Haag explained the situation of Luxembourg being a borderline between the Germanic and the Frank culture and thus Luxemburgish also got a strong influence of today's French, later from Dutch because of the role of the Dutch kings in Luxembourg and ultimately became the perfect “European” language with influences from all possible European immigrants coming to Luxembourg: Italian, Portuguese, English ... For instance it is very common nowadays to say “ciao” rather than the typical “Äddi” to say good-bye! And that is exactly what makes the language difficult to learn: we have such a large vocabulary and depending on the personal influence, people use one expression rather than another: for TV we can say “d'Telé”, “de Fernsee” “d'Kescht”, “de Flimmerkasten”, “d'Televisioun”... and we still think about the same device!

Well, the same is true for the grammatical structure of the language: it is based on the German with its 3 genders (male, female and neutral) and for many people it is uncomfortable to think that for example “a girl” is neutral!

The impression that Luxembourgers grumble a lot is easy to understand once you know that the article (“the” in English) of a word is often attached to the word itself. We do not have only one, not only because of the 3 genders (“den” and “d”), but it also may change because of the first letter of a word (“den” may become “de”), our tongue being forced to make a regular back and forth movement and we would not be able to pronounce “den Ball”, therefore simply phonetically drop the -n “de Ball” before vowels other than “h-n-d-t-z”. Foreigners will thus often have the impression that we swallow a lot of our words, because they do not hear the article or think that we use a word they don't know because they do not realize that

the one sound they hear is in fact made of 2 (sometimes even more) words!

Ultimately you need to understand that our language has been used by and has developed through a very rural environment with people not necessarily highly intelligent and thus needing a very down-to-earth and picturesque way to express. Once a student of Luxemburgish thinks he gets it all, we unwrap our ultimate weapon, rustic expressions that nobody ever is able to understand and even ancient words for evident concepts, where “d'Telé” may suddenly become “de Schlappekino” (literary translated “the house shoes cinema”)!

There are thousands of wonderful expressions that we still commonly use today, sometimes for fun, but often simply because for some reason it has become a habit:

- somebody who works hard is “a Schaffpär” (a work horse)
- a late-born spoilt child is “a Naschtquakert” (who cries into its nest)
- a little child is “a Krappschass” ...

And I spare you the most interesting ones around all possible “politically incorrect” expressions that Luxembourgers are used to say such as the typical expression for French people living just across the border, the “Heckefransous” (the French over the hedge - an allusion to the Department of the Forest mentioned in Prof Haag's lecture on Wednesday.

Well, I taught Luxemburgish for over 12 years to many people working here in Luxembourg and I agree with them when they think that it is a difficult language to learn, simply because it is a non-written language highly influenced by all possible external elements. The passage from Germanic to Frank has always been difficult and for a French it is difficult to learn German, so it is also difficult for them to learn our language. If the same is true for a German who learns French, he thinks that for him it is easy to learn Luxemburgish, but this is not the case: too rapidly do they fall back into German without noticing and strictly speaking, they use an incorrect German dialect rather than Luxemburgish.

Now my best students mostly were English-speaking students (no, I do not want to collect extra points...) because they had to understand everything from scratch; they were perhaps not the fastest learners, but once they got it, they spoke! My worst people were from IT, because they wanted to see the entire correct sentence before they felt ready to say it; thus they never opened their mouth!

On the same borderline than Luxembourg you'll find the Alsace and Switzerland and that explains why Alsatians and Swiss also have a great capability to learn foreign languages and why especially Alsatians are among the best to rapidly learn our language!

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

13 SEPTEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

Go to www.muohio.edu/luxembourg and click on MUDEC Musings.

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This Wednesday, September 15th, we have the pleasure of welcoming **Paul Dostert, director of the State Research Center**, for a fascinating lecture on Luxembourg during World War II. This wonderful (and mandatory) presentation will begin promptly at **17:00 in the dining hall**.

WEDNESDAY RECEPTION



Interested in learning more about our distinguished lecturer? **Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception, hosted by Assistant Dean Manes.** Interested in sharing a glass of wine with our honored guest? Email Kelley!

FREE CONCERT OPPORTUNITY!

Thanks to the the generosity of **Professor Backes and the Soloist European Luxembourg**, students are invited to a **FREE** concert at the Philharmonie on **Monday, September 20th**. Interested? Sign up with Kelley before **Friday**,



September 17th. There are a limited number of tickets, so the earlier, the better!

HIKE WITH THE HOFF.

Did you know that Luxembourg has the densest collection of hiking trails in the world? This **Thursday, September 16th**, **Mr. Hoff, hiker extraordinaire**, will be meeting with students interested in learning more about hiking in Luxembourg. Bring all your questions and queries to the dining hall at 17:00!



DISCOVERY WEEKEND EXCURSION PREVIEW: THE FAMILY OF MAN

On **Friday, September 24th**, we will be visiting the northern Luxembourgish village of Clervaux to see the legendary photography exhibit, **The Family of Man**. The exhibit will be closed for renovation starting September 27th, so this could be your last chance to check out these amazing photographs! **Email Kelley by Tuesday, September 21st** if you are interested. **This is a mandatory trip for all ATH 335 students!**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes out to **Kelly Koepsel** (Sept. 17th) and **Morris Bronstein** (Sept. 18)!



MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

Safety and Living la Vie Luxembourgaise



Congratulations! You have survived two full weeks of classes, travel and Luxembourgish life. You're gaining the confidence to conquer Europe by storm via weekly excursions, and soon, hopping on a train to Switzerland will be like a second nature.

With this confidence, however, it is still important to keep safety a priority.

Remember that Europe is different from quaint little Oxford – you will be constantly dealing with different cities, different cultures and different kinds of people. If you make smart choices, chances are you'll have many rewarding and positive experiences! It's only when you're not aware of your surroundings that things can take a turn for the worse.

Looking at the Stats

Let's take a moment and look at some of the statistics about our 'home' country of Luxembourg. According to the 2009 Global Peace index, Luxembourg is the 13th safest country in the world, and in 2008, a survey conducted by the Mercer Human Resource Consulting group, the Grand Duchy was considered the safest in the world. To put this in perspective, in these same surveys, the United States ranked 83rd and 40th (respectively). Does this mean that crime does not exist in Luxembourg? Definitely not, but it does mean that unwarranted threats on wellbeing are more unlikely.

Yet, the choices you make while you travel, within or outside of Luxembourg, can directly affect your personal safety. As foreign visitors to this wonderful continent, sometimes even our most seemingly harmless actions can garner unwanted attention. By taking a few precautionary measures, however, you can avoid being the target of unwanted solicitations and attention.

Travel Safely

The first, and most important, is to always have vigilant attitude and to be constantly aware of your surroundings. When heading back to your host family's house, or to the hostel, always stick to the well-lit, main streets. Avoid Short

cuts, like rue Impasse du Chateau, or dark parking lots, places that might harbor some unfriendly characters. And finally, avoid walking home alone.

These tips are good general rules to follow within and outside of Luxembourg, but there are a few additional things to add when traveling. Before you hit the road, make sure someone knows your detailed itinerary. Even if it's just a note you leave on your host family's kitchen counter, this information will be crucial if, in the unfortunate case, something were to happen. If your travel plans change, make sure you update your contact to avoid any unnecessary worrying.

It also is smart to make multiple copies of your passport, visa, credit cards, and any other important documents. Keep one copy in Luxembourg and carry one copy with you while traveling. In case of theft, you will have all the necessary information to better notify the authorities.

Put These Numbers in Your Phone

But even with all these precautionary measures, what happens if you feel that your safety is compromised? If you believe it to be an immediate threat, don't hesitate to call **the Luxembourg police at 113**. In a medical emergency situation, use the **EU unified emergency number, 112**. This number can be used throughout Europe, not just in Luxembourg. **Other important numbers to remember are those of your host family, the U.S. Embassy, and the center's emergency line (see below)**. Depending on the circumstances, these can be useful resources when dealing with a compromising situation.

If, in the unfortunate situation that you find yourself a victim of theft, assault, or any other (hopefully) minor incidents, please let the center know. While immediate assistance may not be possible (especially if you're traveling outside of Luxembourg) the center can advise you on what to do, notify your family, and help you with notifying the authorities. **The emergency number for the center (if it's past opening hours) is +352 58 22 22 911.**

Kelley Engelbrecht is the Student Activities Coordinator at the Dolibois Center.

Editor's note: In an unfortunate error, it wasn't noted that the author of last week's column "Who's Afraid of Luxembourgish" was Raymond Manes, Assistant Dean of the Dolibois Center.

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20 SEPTEMBER 2010

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MUDEC Events

CONCERT TONIGHT!

Tonight is the **FREE Solistes Européens, Luxembourg concert at 20.00!** If you have signed up, check your email for details on how to get there!



CALLING ALL SINGERS...

Interested in singing some sweet tunes with the University of Luxembourg this semester? The first rehearsal will be this **Tuesday, September 21st**, at the Limpertsberg campus in Lux City! Meet at the Differdange train station at **17.30** if you're interested in attending the first rehearsal!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This **Wednesday, September 22nd**, we will be welcoming **M. Yves Francis, managing partner of Deloitte Luxembourg** will be giving the presentation "Deloitte and the Overall Luxembourg Marketplace and its Challenges in a Global Economy." **Business casual attire is suggested for this interesting, and mandatory, event!**



WEDNESDAY RECEPTION

Interested in learning more about our distinguished lecturer? **Immediately following the lecture, there will be a reception, hosted by Dean Leterre.**

Interested in sharing a glass of wine with our honored guest? Email Kelley!

WEEKEND DISCOVERY TOUR: THE FAMILY OF MAN

This **Friday, September 24th**, we will be visiting the northern Luxembourgish village of Clervaux to see the legendary photography exhibit, **The Family of Man**. The exhibit will be closed for renovation starting September 27th, so this could be your last chance to check out these amazing photographs! **Email Kelley by Tuesday, September 21st if you are interested. This is a mandatory trip for all ATH 335 students!**

TRANS-ATLANTIC MEETING

On **Monday, October 4**, we will be having our first (mandatory) Trans-Atlantic meeting (a.k.a. a chance to hang out) with the University of Luxembourg! Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg we will be treated to a concert at the Philharmonie. **Be ready, dressed to the nines, by 18.30 in the courtyard, on October 4!**



WEEKEND DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: CHAMPAGNE COUNTRY!

Our next Weekend Discovery Tour will be an excursion to France's **Champagne country on October 8th and 9th**. Highlights will include a trip to Verdun, Champagne tasting and a visit to a Trappist monastery! Interested? **Deadline to sign up is Friday, September 24th!**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!



A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes out to **Nicole Stepowoy** (Sept. 20), and **Kevin Conway** (Sept. 21). Happy early birthday to **Laura Middleton** (Sept. 29), who will be celebrating during Mini-Field Study Tour!

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



Just in Case - My Weekend in the Hospital

Let me start by saying I hope you never have to use this information. I decided to build on last week's Monday Column about safety to share what I learned when I had to go to the hospital in Luxembourg. It is always good to prepare ahead of time for potential emergencies, and it was also a little funny now

that I look back on it.

After I returned from a two day trip to Brussels to do "research" for the chocolate study tour, I started feeling sicker and sicker. I knew it was kidney stones because I had had them before. The pain got worse on Saturday afternoon, and I was pretty sure that I needed to go to the hospital. I just didn't know how to do it.

Calling 112. Going to the Hospital

In a medical emergency you are supposed to **call 112** but I wasn't sure this was a "real emergency." I have never called 911 in the US, but 112 isn't the same thing. They can help you find a doctor on call, locate the nearest open pharmacy, or call an ambulance if you need one. Don't feel worried about calling this number. **Don't just go to the nearest hospital, call 112 first.** No hospital offers around-the-clock emergency service. Emergency services rotate from hospital to hospital daily! Don't take the chance of going to the wrong hospital and wasting time.

All of the operators speak English, and they are very helpful. Since English may not be the operator's first language, try to speak slowly and clearly even though you might be nervous.

If you have to go to the hospital, make sure you **take your HTH Direct health card, and your passport.** Since we are not part of the *Caisse de Maladie*, the socialized medical system, you might be asked to leave your passport with reception until you have paid for treatment.

When you are admitted to the hospital you can choose **between 1st class and 2nd class accommodations**, just like on the train. The medical service is the same, but the doctor actually charges you more if you are in 1st class! Really! A private room is treated as 1st class, so you will probably have roommates if you are cheap like me. Do not be afraid to ask if information about prices is not offered.

If you want to use the TV and phone in your room, you have to pay for them when you are admitted. They also didn't allow me to use the **wifi** connection that was available in my room even when I offered to pay for it. Bring several Euro to pay for bottled water, since they don't provide that either. Welcome to Europe!

A scary thing is that no one could convert from pounds to kilograms. I know that I should be able to do it. It is an American's responsibility because we are the only major country not to use the metric system, but I didn't have an internet connection. I told the anesthesiologist that I weighed about 200 lbs. He said "how many kilos?" I said "I don't know." He said "you look like about 80 Kg to me." Don't they have scales in hospitals here?! I realized after he left that I had a conversion table on my cell phone (2.2 lbs / 1 Kg). I weigh 91 kg! This is not the type of procedure you want to wake up during the middle of! Welcome to Europe!

Hospital Food

There are some other things I never would have realized about hospitals in Europe. They fed me breakfast at 11:30 (two small loaves of bread that looked like giant snails, some nutella, and a pot of hot water (actually it was slightly warmer than room temperature water by the time they gave it to me). I ordered tea but apparently you have to ask for the tea, to make tea, even if you order tea.

I finished my breakfast and crawled back into bed and as soon as I fell asleep a nurse came in with a tray and said "It is time for lunch." I said "I just had breakfast," pointing at my empty tray. She said "So? It is time for lunch." Welcome to Europe. I was served a scalding hot soup (probably to make up for my cold water) that was apparently "Cream of Flour," a slab of mystery meat that changed colors under the mushroom gravy as it cooled, a tower of mac and cheese (I am not sure how they did that), and some very good chopped vegetables. You know it is bad when vegetables are your favorite part of the meal.

The nurses only come into your room if you call them or if you are dead asleep so that they can wake you up and make fun of your French. Actually they were very nice, but I just didn't know what the heck was going on.

The first night was a little scary. At 4:00 AM my IV ran dry and they had to restart it. The first nurse sucked the dried blood back out of the tube with a syringe but it still didn't work. I was afraid that they might have to insert another IV. That might have been better. The head nurse came in who knew how to fix it. Instead of sucking out the blockage, she squirted saline into the tube, which hurt like crazy, but fixed the IV. When she left I started to worry that maybe I was about to die from a blood clot to the brain (I am such a worrywart) so I clutched my cell phone in case I had to call my wife to say goodbye. I was sleepless until about the time the sun came up directly outside my window.

I had the only window in Europe that doesn't have those plastic sliding shutters to keep the sun out. If felt like I was going to get a sunburn in by bed from 7:00 AM until 10:00 AM, but that made me stop worrying about the blood clot and I went back to sleep. Going to sleep must have set off a sensor at the nurses' station so they came in to wake me up to take my blood pressure. I have been carefully monitoring my IV bag all day.

The kids arrived to spend about 5 hours with me so my wife could get some work done to be ready for classes. We had a good afternoon with everyone working on homework, with occasional breaks for the kids to play with my hospital bed to see if their knees could fit into their eye sockets. They keep the doors closed in Luxembourg hospitals, and no one ever fell asleep, so the nurses didn't come in to see what was going on.

The National Gem

Kidney stones must be the national gem of Luxembourg. When the doctor took me down for a test, there were three other people "taking their IVs for a walk too." I said "is everyone here for kidney stones (*pietre de rein* in my bad translation)?" After they stopped laughing they all said "Oui," at the same time and we all laughed again.

Rob Rollins is an American faculty member currently teaching The Business of Chocolate at the Dolibois Center

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

04 OCTOBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

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PAPPENDAG/FÊTE DES PÈRES

Luxembourg celebrates Father's Day on the first Sunday of October. Since we were traveling last week, and may have missed the festivities on **Sunday, October 3**, give your host father a belated shout-out this week!

MUDEC Events

TRANS-ATLANTIC MEETING

Today, **Monday October 4**, we will be having our first (mandatory) Trans-Atlantic meeting (a.k.a. a chance to hang out) with the University of Luxembourg! Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg we will be treated to a concert at the Philharmonie. **Be ready, dressed to the nines, by 18.30 in the courtyard.**



CALLING ALL SINGERS...

Still interested in singing some sweet tunes with the University of Luxembourg this semester? It's not too late to join! Rehearsals are **Tuesday evenings from 19.00 to 21.00**. Email Kelley if you're interested, or just hop on the **18.00 train from Differdange** this Tuesday to join in the fun!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

Since we will be enjoying the musical stylings of the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg on Monday, October 4th, there will be **no mandatory activity on Wednesday, October 6th**!

REGISTERING FOR CLASSES...

Strange, but true: it's already time to register for next semester's classes. Don't worry though – because you're in Luxembourg, you get first dibs! **Registration for MUDECers begins at 14.00 (Luxembourg time) on Tuesday, October 12th, and ends 17.59 (Luxembourg time) on Friday, October 15th.**



HIKE WITH THE HOFF!

Interested in learning more about Luxembourg's capital city? This Thursday, October 7th, the legendary Mr. Hoff will be leading a small stroll through Luxembourg City. The hikers will be taking the 14.30 train to the city to begin the exploration!

WEEKEND DISCOVERY TOUR: CHAMPAGNE COUNTRY!

Our next Weekend Discovery Tour will be an excursion to France's **Champagne country on October 8th and 9th**. Highlights will include a trip to Verdun, Champagne tasting and a visit to a Trappist monastery! Interested? **Deadline to sign up is Monday, October 4th!**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes out to **Nate Campbell** (Oct. 5) and **Kyndall Osterman** (Oct. 7)!



MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



The alumni community of the Dolibois Center

Chicago “meet with the Dean” event

During my 2 weeks visit to our home campus in Oxford, Ohio, last month I visited, for the first time in my life, the Chicago area. A five hours drive away from Butler county, through the cornfields of Indiana, I could admire at leisure the

majesty of Lake Michigan in the warmth of the Indian summer in the US. It reminded me of another great Lake that I know far better, Lake Champlain, and of the many summer afternoons I spent on its shore. This being said, the charming city center of Burlington, Vermont, hardly compares to the massive urbanity of downtown Chicago, which I did not find inferior to its flattering reputation as one of the most vibrant places in the US.

I was welcomed to the Windy City by Karen and Tim Miller, to whom I cannot express enough gratitude. They organized a “Meet with the Dean” alumni event at their home in their Chicago home. This was for me a privileged opportunity to meet with a dynamic community of former students who consider their time in Europe with the Dolibois Center (or, as it was called previously, the European Center) a life changing experience. This creates a special bond, not only between people who have attended the Center at the same time, but across different generations of alumni. Some of the experiences they share are similar (many of them involve, guess what, long train rides). Others are radically different: there are the “Check Point Charlie” generations, and the Shengen area generations, the students who knew a Europe divided by the Cold War and those who travel through the “borderless” European Union. But even when thirty years separate the stay in Luxembourg of two alumni, they still trade stories with an unmistakable pleasure.

And, after a year as the Dean of the Luxembourgish campus, I was more than happy to trade mine too.

Alumni solidarity

Because of this immediate feeling of a common membership, as informal as it is friendly, when we talk about the more than 9,000 alumni of the Dolibois European Center, we are not just mentioning a simple compilation of figures. We are referring to a magnet community of people. It does not mean that everybody looks the same, thinks the same, and does the same thing for a living. We would have

failed in our mission if such was the case. The alumni of the Dolibois Center are as diverse as Miami can get, and even more since many of our alumni did not actually attend Miami University, but transferred for a semester or two to Luxembourg. The sense of familiarity among alumni comes from the immediate recognition that staying in Luxembourg was a highlight in their college experience, and often, the point when one changes from adolescence to adulthood. Very often, the memories are so vivid that I have been under the impression that when they talk about the European Center, the alumni do not talk about what they were as students in Luxembourg, but about what they have become since then. They refer to something which does not belong to their past, but to a place which is still meaningful in their present, sometime decades after their stay in Europe.

The alumni community is also one of solidarity, which cares about the continuation and the future of the European Center. Thanks to the generosity the alumni, the Dolibois Center receives donations towards fellowships or general gifts which help with our projects. Over \$70,000 are distributed each year to help students traveling to and staying in Europe: many of these funds, mostly need-based, come from alumni donations. Recently, two new funds have been established in the name of my predecessor (and dare I say, friend) Dean Ekkie Stiller, one in the US, the other one in Luxembourg by the local alumni chapter of Miami University.

Preparing the 2011 reunion

As I mentioned it, the alumni of the Dolibois Center are not a community of the past: they care about the future of the Center. This is why also we have to reinforce existing links and develop new ones. New technologies facilitate the contacts: the Miami University Luxembourg Alumni Facebook page counts 1,070 members and many classes have their own social network. On our side, we have developed a new website (<http://www.units.muohio.edu/luxembourg/>) with interactive features to facilitate connections between alumni. But our community is not solely a virtual one and we invite all the alumni to join the first European level alumni reunion in Luxembourg which will take place from July 15 to July 17, 2011 in Differdange. Our program, “Networking in Europe” will include a gala dinner, exchanges on the topic of the reunion and a cultural program.

I look forward to seeing the alumni of the Dolibois center joining in this exceptional event.

Dr. Thierry Leterre is the Dean of the Dolibois European Center

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

11 OCTOBER 2010

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MUDEC Events

FREE CONCERT!

Today, Monday, October 11 at 20.00 another FREE concert opportunity is being offered to MUDECers thanks to the generosity of the Soloists European, Luxembourg and Professor Backes. If you've signed up to enjoy tonight's musical stylings, check your email for more detail on how to get to the Philharmonie!



THE PIANIST

Interested students are invited to join HST 271 at 18.00 in Charles the Bold for a viewing of the Oscar winning film 'The Pianist.'

CALLING ALL SINGERS...



Interested in singing some sweet tunes with the University of Luxembourg this semester? It's not too late to join!

Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 19.00 to 20.30. Email Kelley if you're interested, or just hop on the 18.00 train from Differdange this Tuesday to join in the fun!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This Wednesday, October 13, the Dolibois Center will be hosting H.E. Ambassador Cynthia Stroum. A few months into her tenure as the U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, Ambassador Stroum will be speaking about the current situation in Luxembourg and Europe. The (mandatory) presentation will begin promptly at 17.00 in the dining hall.



POST-LECTURE GALA DINNER

A formal dinner in the dining hall will immediately follow Ambassador Stroum's lecture. Formal attire is required, i.e. a tie and coat for the gentlemen, dressy clothing for the ladies.

HIKE WITH THE HOFF!

Did you know that Luxembourg has one of the densest collections of hiking trails in the world? Mr. Hoff will be taking interested students on a hike around Wiltz, the former stronghold of the American army during the Battle of the Bulge on Sunday, October 17th.



Stay tuned for details...

DISCOVERY TOUR: METZ, FRANCE

On Friday, October 22, we will be taking an afternoon excursion to Metz, France. Home to Saint-Pierre-aux-Nonnains, the oldest church in France (think 4th century) and the newest contemporary art center, the Pompidou-Metz, this is a city you don't want to miss! From here you can continue on to Paris, Strasbourg, or even Switzerland! The deadline to sign up is Monday, October 18th.



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

There are no birthdays this week at the Dolibois Center.

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



Le Tour du Chocolat

If you are planning a trip to Paris and want to do some relatively inexpensive sightseeing, taste some of the best chocolate in the world, and work off some of the calories at the same time, you have to read this summary of a *New York Times* article written by AMY THOMAS (12/14/2008) about a bicycle chocolate tour of Paris. I have not done this yet, but look forward to doing it soon. The full article can be found at travel.nytimes.com

The French have elevated many things to high art: fashion, flirting, foie gras, our Dean. Chocolate is no exception. With boutiques that display truffles as rapturously as diamonds, the experience of visiting a Parisian chocolatier can be sublime.

The problem, of course, is squeezing in as many of these indulgent visits as possible while also giving the rest of the city its due. The solution: devote one full day to chocolate boutiques, and do it in style. Take the city's Vélib' bike system to visit eight of the best - it is a chocoholic's dream ride.

How To Get Around

The Vélib's (www.velib.paris.fr) are industrial-looking road bikes and is the largest bike program in France. There are 1,451 stations in the city or one approximately every 900 feet. Each station has about 15 to 20 bikes. The bikes are simple: three speeds, an adjustable seat, a bell and basket and a headlight. Some of the bikes don't work so you should make the following checklist: Are the tires inflated? Are the rims, straight? Is the front basket intact? Do the gears work? Is the chain attached? With these things checked, you're good to go,

By purchasing a one-day or weeklong pass at the kiosk located at a station, you can hop on any bicycle and drop it at your next destination. To unlock a bike, you punch in your personal access code at the kiosk. Though it's called a free bike program, a day pass costs 1 euro. The first half-hour on the bike is no additional charge, the second half-hour is 1 euro, and the third half-hour is 2 euros. After that, it's 4 euros every half-hour; the shorter your trips, the lower the cost. The total cost for five hours is about 12.60 euros, or about \$16.15 at \$1.29 to the euro, chocolates extra.

Le Chocolat

The hedonism begins in the center of town with the oldest master on the list, Michel Cluizel (201, rue St.-Honoré), who has been making chocolate since 1948. A short distance from a Vélib' station at the intersection of Rues de l'Echelle and St-Honoré. Try the macarolat, a chocolate version of the

macaroon; it has a dark chocolate shell filled with almond and hazelnut praline, the nuts ground coarsely to give a rich, grainy texture.

A quick spin west landed you at the doors of Jean-Paul Hévin (231, rue St-Honoré) Try "choco passion," a cocoa cake with chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache and praline puff pastry, or maybe a caramel bûche.

Pick up a bike outside the Hôtel Costes, and try to spy "A-listers around" then set out for the 16th Arrondissement.

Just beyond the Place de la Concorde veer onto Avenue Gabriel. It is a curving street that winds past the United States Embassy. {The original article did not include a trip La Maison du Chocolat (225 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré) but no chocolate tour would be complete without it so I added it here} before eventually turning into a narrow cafe-lined passage to avoid the parallel Champs-Élysées and the rotary around the Arc de Triomphe, take the residential backstreets.

The most eccentric chocolatier on the list: Patrick Roger (45, avenue Victor Hugo; 33-1-45-01-66-71; www.patrickroger.com). His intensely flavored bonbons are as bold as they come. The Jamaica has a rich coffee flavor from ground Arabica coffee beans; the Jacarepagua blends sharp lemon curd and fresh mint, and then there's the Phantasme, made with oatmeal. Each costs less than 1 euro. Pass the grandest Parisian landmark of all: the Eiffel Tower and find Michel Chaudun (149, rue de l'Université, 33-1-47-53-74-40) a wildly talented artist and chocolate sculptor.

His pavés are particularly worshipped. They're sugar cube-size squares of cocoa-dusted ganache that you deftly spear from the box with a toothpick and then allow to melt a little on your tongue a little before biting into the rich creaminess.

Finally, in the Sixth Arrondissement, there are many world-class chocolatiers. There is the whimsical Jean-Charles Rochoux (16, rue d'Assas), try the artistry of his Maker's Mark truffles.

Christian Constant (37, rue d'Assas) excels at such spicy and floral notes as saffron and ylang-ylang. Pierre Marcolini (89, rue de Seine), the lone Belgian of the group, offers 75 percent dark chocolate from seven South American and African regions.

Finish your tour in grand style. There may be a line snaking out of Pierre Hermé's slim boutique (72, rue Bonaparte). When you make it inside you will feel like a kid in a candy store: pristine rows of cakes adorned with fresh berries, coffee beans and dark chocolate shavings.

Rob Rollin is an American faculty member currently teaching the Business of Chocolate at the Dolibois Center.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

18 OCTOBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

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Every Tuesday the blog will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

Go to www.muohio.edu/luxembourg and click on MUDEC Musings.

MUDEC Events



WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This Wednesday, October 20, the Dolibois Center will be welcoming **Dr. Theo Stengelhofen**, a former MUDEC faculty member, as he presents on sports management in the United States and European Union. **This exciting (and mandatory!) lecture will begin promptly at 17.00 in the dining hall.**

POST-LECTURE RECEPTION

Interested in learning more about our guest lecturer? Sign up to attend the post-lecture reception hosted by Dean Leterre!

DISCOVERY TOUR: METZ, FRANCE

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FREE CONCERT!

Yes, another FREE concert is being offered, thanks to the generosity of the **Solistes Européens, Luxembourg and Professor Backes, on Monday, November 15th**. Email Kelley to sign up!

ALL ABOUT MONGOLIA!

Before returning to Mongolia, Enkhchimeg Munkhgerel will be giving a presentation about her fascinating country! She will be presenting on Tuesday, October 26th, during lunch, so grab your food, grab a seat, and get ready to learn all about beautiful Mongolia!



CHOCOLAT

Love chocolate? Interested in learning more about chocolate? On Tuesday, October 26th, **Clay Gordon, chocolate critic and published author will be giving a little presentation on all things deliciously chocolate.** The fun and games begin at 18.00 in the dining hall!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

You might not be able to trick-or-treat in Differdange, but who says you can't celebrate the spookiest holiday in style? Our next Wednesday Activity will be a Halloween celebration, hosted by your SFC! Stay tuned for details, but start thinking about costumes...



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center HAPPY BIRTHDAY goes to **Teresa Eigel** (Oct. 21), **Wade Mickey** (Oct. 21) and **Max Kommer** (Oct. 24)!

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

The question of Courtesy and Culture



The other evening I was with some students at a very nice dinner at a Portuguese café. The chef seemed to have gone to quite some effort in the preparation of the meal: a small feast of fish, chicken, and

accountrements. As we were eating, one of our group wondered if he might get some catsup for his potatoes. Another of our number, however, wondered whether it would be inappropriate to ask for something the chef had not offered, and that seemed to settle the question without debate.

I thought the question was reasonable (I wanted pepper, myself), and I also agreed with the student who wondered about the propriety of asking. But for me what was most pleasant was to be at a dinner with a group of people who did not question the idea that courtesy to a chef was to be considered above modification of a meal to suit one's individual taste. A very discreet and slight inquiry later on to the cook (by me) by way of the waiter produced a bottle of catsup (and some pepper), all with good cheer on her part, and it was clear she enjoyed the courtesy of her guests. What an excellent meal!

The question about catsup was one of many small moments which I will remember with a real sense of pleasantness. I don't think we need to come to Europe to learn courtesy, but perhaps we get extra opportunity here to exercise it: especially so, since on occasion we are not quite perfect in the language(s) of our hosts. Courtesy is not the same as being nice or of being friendly: two traits that are relatively frequently applied to Americans abroad. Courtesy is the application of appropriate and excellent manners to a given situation. While originally probably referring to appropriate behavior at a noble or royal court, it has happily translated itself over the years to apply to any court, place, or circumstance.

For those of us who occasionally find ourselves visited with impatience, frustration, and a bit of self-centeredness, courtesy does not always invite itself as our first response to a circumstance. We might wish it did; courtesy cannot impleasentuate every circumstance (Yes, I made that word up), but it is hard to think of a circumstance where it is inappropriate.

Politeness is a very good thing, and important in itself, but it differs from courtesy. Politeness was originally a guide to behavior in the polis, or city. It ideally guides polity, policy and politics; but as the city is larger than the court, so might we find polity and politeness less intimate than courtesy and courteousness. Nice is also quite nice (though it originally meant something a bit stupid or silly), although we humans must share its agreeable designation with trees, days, and train rides. Friendly is very cheerful, since its original meaning is to love or to favor; but it also has a bit of an outgoing connotation which can occasionally be startling to strangers or acquaintances that view friendship as a relationship that takes some time to cultivate.

As we experience more cultures, we often absorb bits of them: as we have so been doing for thousands of years. Our hours and minutes are defined by ancient Sumeria; we are business and finance majors thanks to the medieval Islamic borrowing of an Indian numeral and a French inventor's improvement of a cloth loom; our marriage rituals include bits from pre-Greek cultures, though many of our religions originated in the Middle East; our philosophies come from everywhere, though it seems that Greece, India, and China dominate—unlike our civil laws, which seem to have closer connections to Hammurabi, the Romans, and Napoleon. Our weekdays often celebrate Celtic and Nordic gods, while our months occasionally commemorate Roman emperors. You are probably reading by way of technology learned from Korea and China: printing and paper. We are multicultural in our ancestry and traditions, as are most communities.

As most of you have experienced, however, while we have many common roots our branches can be most distinct; and a wonderful opportunity you have is to explore that variety here in Europe. And while the principal tools for exploration may on occasion seem to be your Eurail pass and your bank account, it is really curiosity that is your most important resource. So everything you might do to give your curiosity its best opportunity to be useful is valuable; and I paraphrase a colleague who remarked that curiosity framed by courtesy seldom goes unrewarded, and almost never unappreciated.

The intangible souvenirs of travel are many. Some of you will return to Miami with substantially improved language skills; some with a vastly greater understanding of the European Union, of its many majority and minority communities, its history in conflict and in peace. Some of you will now treat chocolate like wine, paying attention to where and how it was made with detail that will startle your parents. We should, of course, have a broader sense of cultural understanding. I think we may also find ourselves more frequently using courtesy in our communication. We find here how helpful it is, where languages and backgrounds might be less familiar to us; one might imagine it equally appreciated among old friends and family.

Let Confucius inspire us:

"When music and courtesy are better understood and appreciated, there will be no war."

Howard Blanning is an American faculty member currently teaching "Camelot in Literature and on Location: a Pathway through the Middle Ages" at the Dolibois Center

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

25 OCTOBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

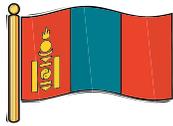
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MUDEC Events

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CHOCOLAT



Love chocolate? Interested in learning more about chocolate? On Tuesday, October 26th, Clay Gordon, chocolate critic and published author will be giving a little presentation on all things deliciously chocolate. The fun and games begin at 18.00 in the dining hall! Please RSVP if you are not in BUS 291.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

Happy Halloween! This Wednesday we will be celebrating the spookiest of holidays with a lunchtime BBQ complete with hamburgers (veggie burgers too), sausages, Halloween treats, and of course, costume! The fun and games begin at 12.00 on Wednesday afternoon. The student with the best costume will get a special prize!



SAY CHEEEEEEESE

It's time to permanently capture your MUDEC semester and give future students something to look at in the Maisy Dumont classroom – yes, it's group picture time! Meet in the courtyard (costume and all) at 17.00 on Wednesday, October 27.

DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: NANCY, FRANCE

On Friday, November 12, we will be taking an afternoon excursion to Nancy, France! One of the original centers of the art nouveau movement, Nancy is a must-see. Deadline to sign up is Friday, October 26!

FREE CONCERT!

Yes, another FREE concert is being offered, thanks to the generosity of the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg and Professor Backes, on Monday, November 15th. Email Kelley to sign up!

TOUR THE U.S. EMBASSY!

Interested in seeing how it all goes down in the U.S. Embassy?



There will be a tour for interested students on Tuesday, November 9th at 17.00. Email Kelley if you are interested!

TIME CHANGE

At 3.00am, Sunday, October 31st,

Europe will be 'Fall-ing back' to 2am, so re-set those clocks and



alarms so you don't miss any trains, plans or buses! Daylight savings will be hitting the U.S. a week later on Sunday, November 7th.

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!



A big Dolibois European Center HAPPY BIRTHDAY goes to Cate Mouw (Oct. 29), Tony Ramstetter (Oct. 29), and

Lauren Ness (Oct. 31)! Celebrating their big days during Toussaint break are Brian Baum (Nov. 6) and Caroline Gray (Nov. 7)!

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'



What a center!

If I had to retrace these last few weeks at the Dolibois Center, I am afraid that it would look like the society pages of a well connected newspaper.

Let us see... Two weeks ago the Center was honored with the visit of US Ambassador Stroum. Her laidback style, her open way of handling questions and her insights on politics as well as on her job as an Ambassador were greatly appreciated by our community. The questions were no less interesting than the answers, and I believe we all had a wonderful evening. And certainly, our standing reception with Ambassador Stroum, and our gala dinner with Deputy Chief of Mission Cecchini would have been two highlights in our society pages!

The week after, with a few students we discovered that the Dolibois Center had a most talented secret Quartet. Lindsay Dubocq, Kelley Engelbrecht, Tony Ramstetter Jr. and Zach Williams performed for the pre-opening of the Cultural Center at Mamer at the invitation of Jim Clemes a notorious Luxembourgish Architect and alumni of Miami University. The Cultural Center of Mamer, a city 8 miles west from Luxembourg City, is his company's most recent creation. It will open to the general audience only at the end of this month but a first musical event was arranged before the official opening to test the sound of the theater, devoted to musical events and spectacles. The test itself consisted of diverse measurements of prerecorded (and quite sepulchral) sounds and an assessment with live music (not sepulchral at all).

The Dolibois Quartet (unofficial name) was the sole non-professional entity performing. Our students and Student Activity Coordinator shared the stage with a brass band, a violin and piano duet, a

performance with 19th century instruments and... the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. I say "non-professional" because the emotion of the public when our friends sung *Precious Lord* was obvious and it would hardly be true to speak of "amateurs" in that sense. The joyful "Fre-O" which followed also took on the audience which was particularly enthusiastic. This was worth an extra serving of desserts at the reception which followed both for the deserving quartet and for the undeserving little Miami club we formed around them.

I would like to pay to our Miami performers a particularly grateful homage. They illustrate in a spectacular fashion, the tradition of Miami University as a Liberal Arts university as well as of an engaged University. They had the talent there, and I would say, they showed bravery too as it takes some bold mind for four young singers to take the stage just after the internationally renowned Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. They deserve every bit of their kind introduction by Jim Clemes, who underlined his pleasure to see members of his alma mater perform on the stage he had built for Mamer.

Our social life was to be continued last week with a much appreciated lecture by Theo Stengelhofen on Sports management in the US and the EU. We could see we have real soccer fans around!

Now, it will be time to celebrate the fall! It is an amazing thing to realize that America has produced a specific culture for this season, which is mostly a sort of dull waiting for Christmas in Europe, with the Halloween tradition and then Thanksgivings. See you then for these new pages in our *Society Section*.

Thierry Leterre is the Dean of the Dolibois European Center.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

8 NOVEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog (www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com) will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY!

This Wednesday the Dolibois Center will be welcoming **Miami Alum (and future Dolibois Center professor!), journalist Nicolas Pleimling** for an exciting lecture on the media in Luxembourg. This mandatory event will take place at **16.00 (an hour earlier!)** in the dining hall.

POST-LECTURE RECEPTION

Interested in sharing a glass of wine with our honored guest lecturer? Immediately following the presentation there will be a reception, hosted by Dean Leterre. Email Kelley to sign up!

LOVE AND HONOR

M This **Thursday, November 11**, the Dolibois Center will be representing Miami University at the university fair in Luxembourg City! **We are looking for a few students to donate an hour or two of their time to help us get prospective Redhawks pumped up about attending Miami.** Email Kelley if you are interested! A bonus? You'll get a free lunch out of it!

FREE CONCERT!

Yes, another FREE concert is being offered, thanks to the generosity of the **Solistes Européens, Luxembourg and Professor Backes, on Monday, November 15th**. Email Kelley to sign up!

BOFFERDING!

Interested in learning about *le Secret de Luxembourg*? **There will be a tour of the Bofferding brewery on Thursday, November 18th at 14.00!** Email Kelley to sign up.



DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: SKI TRIP!

Next stop on the Discovery Tour circuit? **A ski trip in the Vosges Mountains on Saturday, December 4th!** If you are interested, and haven't yet emailed Kelley to get on the list, the deadline is to sign up is November 19th!

GOBBLE, GOBBLE

Bummed that you're missing mashed potatoes, turkey with all the fixings and pumpkin pie? Well, turn that frown upside down and get excited for the official **Dolibois Center Thanksgiving Celebration on Wednesday, November 17th!** Stay tuned for details, but start working up that appetite.



AIRPORT SHUTTLE

If you are flying out of Dusseldorf on Thursday, December 16th, sign up for the airport shuttle from Differdange! Check your email for more details. **Deadline to sign up is November 19th!**

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!



A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes to **Kevin Guerin (Nov.11)!**

MONDAY COLUMN

The Grip of the Fall



By now, Sprint Study tour courses have come to their conclusion and we are done with mid-term exams. Just before the All Saints Break, I said good bye to my colleague Professor H. Blanning, who is back to Miami. It was not without nostalgia.

We are entering the second half of our program.

Behind us, the celebration of Halloween, the week before the break. For this, I give a warm “thank you” to our Students Faculty council, which organized the event with great efficiency. Thanks also go to Stéphane, our cook, and to Mary and Ména, for their continuous support to our activities. It was a fun note before going on holiday.

Ahead of us, in two weeks, the Study tours. Soon enough, we’ll reach the end of the semester with its hectic pack of last trips, exams and the final Awards Banquet.

Reflecting on this, I realized how truly American a season the Fall is—quite literally so, as American English has retained the word “Fall” in lieu of the British “Autumn” for this time in the year when days become shorter, the night darker, and when, sometime, life feels like a long dusk.

In the US, after the summer comes the Indian summer and soon, the season of Apple picking. Halloween is already at hand, and, hardly gone, is replaced by the festive preparations of Thanksgiving. It is a moment of glory for the signature vegetable of the moment, as orange pumpkins set a note of bright harmony with the fallen leaves that carpet in purple and gold the green of our lawns.

Christmas, will conclude the long march to the winter. It will be time to send Seasons’ greetings.

Europe has a more ambiguous relationship to the Fall. Nuances can be seen between countries, mostly following the divide between the Germanic influence and the Mediterranean culture. Germany has its Apple festivals in September, its OktoberFest from the end of September to mid October, and the new wine (called *Fiederwaissen* in Luxembourg) period. Then the season of the Christmas markets begins. They spread from Germany to the East of France (where Strasbourg market is internationally renowned) and to Luxembourg. At the beginning of next month, you will see the little bungalows of Differdange’s market turning the city into a village offering bread, hot wine, and cheese as well as some Christmas goodies.

More South, the fall is nothing but the *morte saison* or the dead season as French call it. Halloween is hardly known. The timid attempts at collecting sweets and at costuming are frowned upon as they compete with All Saints day, itself confounded with the Day of the Dead. Since the 19th century, it is customary to go to the cemetery and to lay flowers on family graves—not very fun enticing. Season greetings are postponed until the beginning of the New Year. Then only, a series of holidays will celebrate joyfully the expectation for the spring: *Chandeleur*, *Mardi Gras*, *Mi-Carême*, and Easter have become successful holidays despite the Christian lent. And Valentine’s Day has been the only victorious holiday importation from the US. In May, we will offer Lilly-of-the-valley to our parents.

We will not wait so long ourselves, and, as an American program, we have planned to share the celebration of the Fall. In a couple of weeks, we will associate to our traditional Thanksgiving dinner the alumni chapter, as well as students from the University of Luxembourg and from the other American university of Luxembourg, the Sacred Heart.

US Fall is fun!

Thierry Leterre is the Dean of the Dolibois European Center.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

15 NOVEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog (www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com) will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY: GOBBLE GOBBLE

Bummed that you're missing mashed potatoes, turkey with all the fixings and pumpkin pie? Well, turn that frown upside down and get excited for the official **Dolibois Center Thanksgiving Celebration at 18.30 on Wednesday, November 17th**! We will also be hosting the Miami Alumni Association, the University of Luxembourg and Sacred Heart University Luxembourg. Formal attire is recommended for the celebration!



BOFFERDING!

Interested in learning about *le Secret du Luxembourg*? **There will be a tour of the Bofferding brewery on Thursday, November 18th at 16:30!** Email Kelley to sign up.



TOYS FOR TOTS!

Interested in winning some great local Luxembourg prizes (i.e. **coupons for free pizza, homemade dinner**)? Then get excited for our annual Toys-for-Tots raffle that raises money for

this wonderful Christmas charity! Check your in-boxes for a note from the SFC.

GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

You know that warm, fuzzy feeling that comes with listening to great Christmas music? On Saturday, December 4th, there will be a **FREE Advent concert** featuring conservatory students of our very own Professor Backes. Check out the posters around the Chateau for more information!

DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: SKI TRIP!

Next stop on the Discovery Tour circuit? **A ski trip in the Vosges Mountains on Saturday, December 4th**! If you are interested, and haven't yet emailed Kelley to get on the list, the deadline is to sign up is **November 19th**!



AIRPORT SHUTTLE

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BON VOYAGE – FIELD STUDY!

Remember to take your perishable food out of the kitchen before we leave for Field-Study on Friday!

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes to **Daniel Gonzalez** (Nov. 15), **Michael Salvadore** (Nov. 16), **Emily Vutech** (Nov. 17), and **Will DeDakis** (Nov. 18)! Celebrating their big days over field study are **Kyle Miller** (Nov. 26) and **Martha Watts** (Nov. 27)!



MONDAY COLUMN



Giving Thanks

I love Thanksgiving. I love the pandemonium of the kitchen, the smell of turkey in the early hour of the morning, the Macy's day parade, eating yourself silly, all of it. I even enjoy the

chill of a cold Ohio November day because it makes the warmth of the holiday that much more cozy.

As my first Thanksgiving away from my family, and my country, approached, I was worried. The excitement of traveling that weekend was a little dulled with the thought that I wouldn't be able to live all of my Turkey-day traditions. Would it even feel like Thanksgiving?

But that first Thanksgiving, in Luxembourg, was wonderful. Not only was there turkey and mashed potatoes, but I remember realizing what a wonderful family I had found at the Dolibois Center as we clamored for second helpings of pumpkin pie. Of course I missed my Ohio family, but there was something so wonderful about this new 'family' with whom I had missed trains, conquered cities, and discovered Europe.

A few years later I found myself in France, teaching English. Once again, I was outside of the United States on my favorite holiday, and I felt those pangs of homesickness creep in again. I had found such a wonderful family-away-from-family to share in the holiday spirit a few years earlier, there's no way I would get that lucky again.

Well, it turns out I was wrong, but it took a little adjustment on my part. Thanksgiving *à la mode française* means a rather interesting conversation with a confused butcher (turkey is a dish usually reserved for Christmas holiday celebrations) and a visit to the exotic fruit section of the grocery store for sweet potatoes (strange, but true). It wasn't the Thanksgiving celebration of my childhood, but it was wonderful none-the-less. There was mass chaos

around the stove as dishes were prepared, there was a familiar November chill in the air, and pick up games of flag football were replaced with frisbee. We had invited all of the international language teachers to our celebration. The table was filled with not only turkey and gravy, but also *pain surprise* from France, *Kartoffel* from Germany, and cakes and pies from Australia. In total, there were eleven nationalities represented, each contributing a different culinary dish to the spread. And you know, it still felt like Thanksgiving. While the food and country had changed, the feeling of gratitude and family were far from being absent.

The lesson I learned that year was that traditions are valuable and important for our nostalgic memory, but the true meaning of this holiday is sharing in the gratitude of the bounty of the season with others, friends, old and new.

Looking back hundreds of years ago, to that 'first' Thanksgiving, wasn't this always the true intention of this celebration? Here were people, not too different from us, confronted with a new country, new food, and new customs, taking a moment from their cultural reinvention to just give thanks. To reflect on the past, how far they'd come, and what they had learned.

This year, we'll be sharing our American celebration with the Miami University Alumni chapter of Luxembourg, the University of Luxembourg and Sacred Heart University Luxembourg. Stephan will work his culinary magic to create a delicious Thanksgiving feast.

And in the same spirit of reflection from those early days, there is much to be thankful for. An incredible group of students, an unbeatable team of faculty and staff, a beautiful (sometimes freezing) Chateau, and of course, a wonderful semester.

Kelley Engelbrecht is the Student Activities Coordinator at the Dolibois Center.

MEINDE & MOIEN

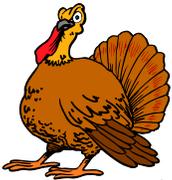
"MONDAY MORNING"

22 NOVEMBER 2010

Welcome to the Dolibois Center!

Thank you so much for your interest in Miami University and the Dolibois European Center! This newsletter highlights some of the events we have hosted at our Differdange campus. Hopefully we'll see you at the Chateau for future events!

MUDEC Events



GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBBLE!

On Thursday, November 17th, we celebrated the American tradition of Thanksgiving! We enjoyed a feast of turkey, mashed potatoes, corn and pumpkin pie with our guests the University of Luxembourg, the Miami University Alumni Association of Luxembourg and Sacred Heart Business School Luxembourg.

TOUR OF THE U.S. EMBASSY

On Tuesday, November 9th, 12 Dolibois Center students visited and toured the U.S.



Embassy in Luxembourg, learning about the role of the Ambassador and the various offices and their diplomatic roles in Luxembourg.

SOLOIST EUROPEEN, LUXEMBOURG

Thanks to the generosity of Professor Georges Backes and the Soloists European, Luxembourg, students had the opportunity to attend "When the Strings have Visitors" at the Philharmonie on Monday, November 15th!

DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR

Students interested in learning more about the surrounding region participated in the Discovery Tour to Metz, France on Friday, October 22nd. We toured the town, learning more about its rich history, and enjoyed seeing the newest Pompidou centre!



TOYS FOR TOTS

The Student Faculty Council kicked off this



year's Toys for Tots campaign on Tuesday, November 16th. This year students are buying raffle tickets to win prizes donated by local establishments and the faculty and staff. All the proceeds will benefit this wonderful Christmas charity!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our T-shirt raffle winners! **Dalida Mandzukic, Milica Spica, Abou Drame, and Sarah Hayum**, you will be receiving a Miami University t-shirt in the mail!

BLOG

Check the **MUDEC Musings** for announcements, cultural opportunities and other fun things to keep in you 'in the know' on all things Luxembourgish!
www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com

MONDAY COLUMN

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

Welcome to the John E. Dolibois Center, to Luxembourg, to Differdange and to Europe!



Live, learn, discover... When I asked at the beginning of my tenure as Dean of the John E. Dolibois European Center which words encompassed the experience we wanted for our Luxembourg Campus, these words offered themselves to our reflection. To this day, I still believe they cover much of what our purpose, and more important, our spirit is about.

Going abroad, if only for a semester, but even more significantly for those who commit themselves for a year, is a changing experience. There is of course the natural element of personal development that higher education aims at triggering in everyone. It is still truer on a campus taught by a remarkably multinational faculty coming from Belgium, France, Germany and, of course, Luxembourg and offering the students the knowledge and the experience of diverse professional and academic backgrounds.

This academic experience combines with the discovery of a radically new environment. As no one exactly leads the same life as her or his neighbor, everybody experiences this change in a very personal way. But we all change. Some like to stay in the little bubble that Miami creates in Luxembourg: for them our program is a way to discover life and cultures abroad without stepping too far away of the comfort zone. They enjoy being in one of the safest countries in the world and in an American-organized environment. Some have a more touristy approach, and bear in mind a check list of places borrowed from their guidebooks or friends who tell them what they “absolutely” should do. For others, more adventurous or curious, our program offers a unique possibility to interact with the others, meet people, learn languages, and learn to communicate even when you do not share the same language.

For many, their stay in Luxembourg will be remembered as a prime moment of autonomous adult life, with the typical requirements of balancing leisure and hard work, organization and improvisation, of acquiring new skills, or becoming aware of hidden talents that only needed the right opportunity to flourish. For all, it is the challenge of being

opened, curious, tolerant either to locals or (more than often) to fellow American students as well as to be exposed in class to different teaching styles, a different rhythm in life as in work. This is why the bond that ties our community is particularly strong. Many alumni told me, sometimes years after they attended the program, that they had met their best friends at the Dolibois Center.

As you see, in the Luxembourg program, living is learning, learning is discovering.

The richness of our program is also illustrated by a fact which is too little known: the Dolibois Center is one of the largest American study abroad programs in Europe. Every year more than 280 students enroll in the spring and fall semesters or the summer term and around a hundred students visit with programs hosted by the Center at some point for a few days or for a few weeks.

The Center is also a magnet program for faculty: every year, over 10 professors come from Miami to teach classes along with European faculty—whether Belgian, French, German or... Luxembourgish—at the Dolibois Center. These quick figures show how significant Miami University’s engagement in Europe is and compares to bigger consortiums which associate many universities in one program abroad.

What will the future of the John E. Dolibois center look like? I do not pretend to indulge in oracles. But I am convinced that our future connects to a simple fact: Luxembourg is the best place ever to be “an engaged university”.

The ambition of the Luxembourg program is to enrich the “Miami experience” by empowering students with more autonomy in their education, by developing in-class learning with out-of-class teaching, and providing tangible outcomes such as academic competences as well as intangible ones—all that we recognize as part of our personal growth.

Our task for the future is to expand this ambition, to enhance it, to make it more visible in our curriculum and the expectations we have for it.

Dr. Thierry Leterre is the Dean of the Dolibois European Center.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

29 NOVEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog (www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com) will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!

MUDEC Events

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY: BAXTER INTERNATIONAL

Baxter Our last exciting (and mandatory) Wednesday presentation will be with **Baxter International** and an exciting look at doing business at a global level. **The lecture will begin promptly at 16.00 in the dining hall!**

POST-LECTURE RECEPTION

Interested in learning more about our guest lecturers? Sign up to attend the post-lecture reception, hosted by Assistant Dean Manes. **This would be a great event for people interested in working in Europe after university!**

BOFFERDING!

Interested in learning about *le Secret du Luxembourg*? **There will be another tour of the Bofferding brewery on Friday, December 3 at 14.00!** If you've already experienced the Bofferding tour magic, unfortunately, you cannot go a second time. Email Kelley to sign up!



GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!



You know that warm, fuzzy feeling that comes with listening to great Christmas music? **On Saturday, December 4th, there will be a FREE Advent concert featuring conservatory students of our very own Professor Backes.** Check out the posters around the Chateau for more information!

TOYS FOR TOTS!

Interested in winning some great local Luxembourg prizes (i.e. coupons for free pizza, gelato, homemade dinner)? Then get excited for our annual Toys-for-Tots raffle, taking place next week! **Tickets are 1 for 1 EUR, 5 for 4 EUR and 10 for 7 EUR – buy them from any member of the SFC!**



DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: TRIER CHRISTMAS MARKET!

On Saturday, December 11th, we will be taking advantage of the great, holiday-cheer tradition that is the Trier Christmas Market (think hot wine, handmade trinkets, and delicious goodies.) **The bus will be leaving the Chateau at 14.00 – the deadline to sign up is Wednesday, December 1st!**



AIRPORT SHUTTLE

The bus to the Dusseldorf airport will be leaving in the early hours of Thursday, December 16th at 00.15 from the Chateau, continuing onto Bettembourg and Lux City train stations! For those of you that signed up, the cost will be 22 EUR, deducted from your cashless account!

ONLY 50LBS?

Yup, the weight limit for suitcases is still only **50 lbs (23kg)**. If you are looking to drop some weight, or are running out of room, you can leave clothing, medicine, travel books, school supplies etc. in donation boxes placed throughout the Chateau!

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!



A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes to **Amanda Hennessy** (Nov. 29th)!!

MONDAY COLUMN

Reverse Culture Shock and how to use your study abroad experience to your advantage...



As you enjoy your final few weeks in Europe, I'd like to help you plan your return to the U.S. by discussing reverse culture shock.

*Culture Shock is the expected confrontation with the unfamiliar; re-entry shock is the **unexpected** confrontation with the*

familiar.

– R. Michael Paige

Typically, reverse culture shock seems so severe because you are not expecting it. You know what home is like, how to greet someone and you speak the language fluently, right?

Students often find that they have changed a great deal while abroad and yet not much has changed with their family and friends at home. This makes it difficult to re-adjust to being home and students say that it is hard to find people who truly understand their new perspective.

The process of re-entry can be greatly eased by sharing your experiences with like-minded and interested people. Seek out students who have returned from studying abroad, and use the following three techniques below to understand your experience, to use it to your advantage and to stay involved internationally.

1) Reflection

Talk to friends, write a journal or an e-mail. Set aside time to think about what you have experienced this semester. Think about how you have changed personally, how you see the world differently, what you learned by being abroad. What things do you dis/like about Europe/the U.S.? This reflection is **the most important thing** you can do to use this experience in your future. As fewer than 10 % of all college students study abroad, you have an advantage over 90% of students competing for your dream internship, job, or place in graduate school. But first you must reflect on what you learned and use this in your classes, on your resume, your job and grad school applications and in interviews.

2) Classes, Projects and Papers

After reflecting about the experience of living, traveling and studying abroad, you are ready to use it, in classes and your job search. When you have to do a paper or project use an idea from your Luxembourg experience. This is a great way to get to share your experiences and you will re-live your time abroad as well as learn more about something that you did not have time to explore while abroad.

3) Resume, Job Search, Interviews, and Grad School Applications

Many alumni say they got an interview, job, or into graduate school because of their study abroad experience. Living abroad shows that you can move to a new city, be independent, are up for challenges, and can work within different cultural contexts. Be sure to highlight this on your applications and resume and discuss it in interviews.

If you enjoyed the challenge of being abroad and interacting with different cultures enough to want to have another international experience you have at least two options...

1) Be Internationally Involved in the US

You can have an international experience at home. Help out with the Lux program, and find foreign language or international student groups on campus. Volunteer and work with immigrant groups or cultural enclaves in Cincinnati or your hometown.

2) Go Abroad Again

You can study abroad again, do any number of internships, work, teach, or volunteer positions overseas. Many graduate programs offer study abroad or internships overseas. Be sure to look for these opportunities if this is a priority.

I wish you a wonderful end of the semester and much luck readjusting to the U.S. and using your experiences to your advantage for your exciting future ahead!

Stephanie Shaheen is a MUDEC alum ('91-92) and professor of intercultural communications, currently on maternity leave.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

6 DECEMBER 2010

This week in Luxembourg...

Interested in learning about fun, weekly events happening all around Luxembourg?

Every Tuesday the blog (www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com) will have information about things you can do during the week and on the weekends!



HAPPY ST. NICHOLAS DAY!

Here in Luxembourg, St. Nick is celebrated on his feast day, December 6th! On the night of December 5th, St. Nick visits good boys and girls to give them sweets and little presents. **Happy St. Nicholas Day!**

MUDEC Events

FINAL AWARDS BANQUET GALA

This **Friday, December 10th**, we will be celebrating a fantastic semester at the Differdange restaurant Il Piccolo Mondo! **The buses will be leaving the courtyard of the Chateau at 18.30, right after Friday's make up classes! Formal attire is requested.**

LUNCH ON FRIDAY

Since there will be afternoon classes on Friday, December 10th, hot lunch will be provided!

CHATEAU WEEKEND HOURS!

The Chateau will be open this weekend for you studious students to do some serious finals studying. **Hours will be from 10.00 – 17.00 on Saturday and Sunday.**

TOYS FOR TOTS!

Interested in winning some great local Luxembourg prizes (i.e. **coupons for free pizza, gelato, homemade dinner**)? Then get excited for our annual Toys-for-Tots raffle, taking place next week! **Tickets are 1 for 1 EUR, 5 for 4 EUR**

and 10 for 7 EUR – buy them from any member of the SFC! The raffle will be held during lunch on **Friday, December 10th!**

DISCOVERY

TOUR:

TRIER CHRISTMAS MARKET!

On **Saturday, December 11th**, we will be taking advantage of the great, holiday-cheer tradition that is the Trier Christmas Market (think hot wine, handmade trinkets, and delicious goodies.) **The bus will be leaving the Chateau at 14.00 on Saturday!**



AIRPORT SHUTTLE

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HOST FAMILY EVALUATIONS

In your mailbox, you'll find an **orange housing evaluation form!** Please get these back to Crici by **Friday, December 10** – your input is essential for future semesters!

ONLY 50LBS?

Yup, the weight limit for suitcases is still only **50 lbs (23kg)**. If you are looking to drop some weight, or are running out of room, you can leave clothing, medicine, travel books, school supplies etc. **in donation boxes placed in the Cave and outside Kelley's office!**



JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes to **Adrienne Baughman**, (Dec. 6), **Jerica Plum** (Dec. 6), **Andrew Sheaffer** (Dec. 6), **Aunna Matthiesen** (Dec. 7), **Fily Camara** (Dec. 10) and **Jimmy Trotier** (Dec. 10)!!

MONDAY COLUMN

Did You Really Say B?



What by God's sake does that mean? Well, our students should know, if they were not completely jet-lacked in September during our Integration days ...

Remember now? I said in my welcoming speech that by deciding to come to Europe, you took an important step, you said *A* (yes, I want to experience something new), but now that you are here, this only starts and in order to make it a success, you needed to say *B* and jump into the experience! Ah, I'm sure, most of you remember now and have a clearer mind on what I meant! Hopefully!

Well, we are almost there now, the last week of real traveling is over, next weekend should be reserved for preparing the finals, getting the suitcases ready and being able to close them without having to leave too much stuff behind. I know, it's a sad moment for many of you, as four months of happiness and independence come to an end! But it is also a moment of joy as you soon will see your beloved ones for Christmas, enjoy the food you love and use the toilets you prefer...

Now is the right moment to take a few minutes, reflect on the last four months and answer my question: did you really entirely go through the "European experience"? What does that mean to you? What did it bring you? Did you enjoy it overall or did you mostly stay within the MUDEC cocoon in order to avoid too much contact with these strange Europeans?

"You know, MUDEC is not Oxford but a real amusement park!" Is that what you think? Well, I'm afraid, you won't really have enjoyed the rest of Europe and you will never become an intern of *Baxter*!

Of course, there are differences and the staff certainly reacts in other ways here than in Oxford. Luckily you did not have to go to a university in France, Belgium or Germany - you would have been awfully lost! Of course, the Dolibois Center European professors have a different view on teaching, but many have adapted to the American standard. In a European university it is already

a great achievement to end the semester with a C-, while about 50% of students will finish with an F.

I know you have traveled extensively (sometimes too extensively if I look at some attendance sheets), but other than MacDonald's or Starbucks, how often did you try local restaurants with local food, not really knowing what you would get, ordering on a German or a French menu without any translation? Besides dancing next to a beautiful Czech girl in Prague or a cool *ragazzo* in Rome, how often did you interact with locals? Not only in English, but in French, German, Italian, Spanish ...

And your host family? How often did you sit with them to watch the local TV, not *CNN* or *BBC*, chatting about what was going on in Europe, in Luxembourg, not in the States.

I remember a time - and I am not as old as Methusalem - when we did not have cell phones, portable computers with phone or *Skype* and when it was a great deal to phone from Southern France to Luxembourg, as all the lines were awfully busy. How often and how much time did you spend in the States through one of these machines: count that time off your European experience and you will be amazed how much time you were really here!

How many weekends did you spend in Luxembourg? Besides *Das Boot*, how many bars did you see? How many Saturday evenings have you spent in the local discotheques, at local events, wine feasts, festivals, at the *Rock Hall*, at the ice-skating hall in Kockelscheuer, in Clausen, where all the Luxembourg kids are? Did you ever see Remich, Esch-sur-Sûre, Clervaux, Wiltz, Echternach, Diekirch, besides during Integration or on a Discovery Tour? Did you go back to Trier, to Metz, to Nancy; did you see Arlon, Bastogne, Saarbrücken or Saarlouis? Did you visit the War Museum in Diekirch or Bastogne, the Museum of the City of Luxembourg, the Museum of Resistance, the Museum of Natural Sciences or of History? Did you go to the Casemates, the mines in Rumelange or Stolzembourg?

Did you say B?

Raymond Manes is the Assistant Dean of the Dolibois European Center.

MEINDEG MOIEN

"MONDAY MORNING"

13 DECEMBER 2010

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MUDEC Events

BOOK BUY-BACK



Laurent will be conducting book buy-backs in the library from **Monday, December 13th at 14.00 until Wednesday, December 15th at 12.00**. Please bring all your books at once!

CHATEAU HOURS

The Chateau will be open until **17.00 on Wednesday, December 15th**, reopening at **23.30** so **folks can get ready to leave at 00.15**. Feel free to bring your luggage throughout the day to store at the Chateau before the departure!

T-SHIRTS

The Fall 2010 t-shirts are here and ready to be picked up in Kelley's office! **Everyone gets a free shirt to commemorate this wonderful semester**. Thanks again to Matt McCormick for a great design!



TOYS FOR TOTS!

The grand total for the money raised for Toys for Tots this year was.... (drum roll please).... **543 EUR**, a Dolibois Center record! A huge 'MERCI' goes out everyone who helped us exceed our goal!



SELL PHONES!

....get it? If you 'rented' a phone this year from the Dolibois Center, stop by Kelley's office to pick up your 30 EUR.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE



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Yup, the weight limit for suitcases is still only **50 lbs (23kg)**. If you are looking to drop some weight, or are running out of room, you can leave clothing, medicine, travel books, school supplies etc. **in donation boxes placed in the Cave and outside Kelley's office!**

...AND A FEW FINAL THINGS!

Before you head back to the States, please clear out your mail box, dispose of any uneaten food in the kitchen and **(by noon, Wednesday)** clean your lockers of personal items!

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big Dolibois European Center **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** goes to **Matt Chacey** (Dec. 14th)!



MONDAY COLUMN

Memories and beyond



The end of the semester at the Dolibois Center is not only a frantic time of taking exams and overcoming the stress of taking exams, touring one last time one's favorite places with the nostalgia of soon having to leave them, of seeing friends before the holiday season, and doing some

Christmas shopping within the narrow limits of airlines' regulations which apply lethal charges to overweighed luggage. It is also the moment for one last common meeting during our Award banquet (formally "final Dinner" nicknamed "Prom").

The 2010 Fall semester Award Banquet took place last Friday after classes, in the presence of the staff of the Dolibois Center and of Professors Klein, Hay-Rollins, Ries, Rollins and Smith-Meyer. Their presence meant a lot to us.

What is the purpose of an Award Banquet? My answer is very simple: it is about celebrating the spirit of friendship through the recognition of outstanding achievements. The Center currently presents four awards to seven students. Each of these awards has a special meaning, but all of them reflect a particular engagement in the story and the purpose of the Center.

Leland and Ruth Dutton Award established an Award, with their daughter Lynore DeSilets and son Lee Dutton, to recognize exceptional academic excellence. As Leland Dutton was a long time director of Library Services at Miami University (1956-69) and the organizer of the library at the European Center in Luxembourg, this award is the symbol of the link between our home university and our Luxembourg Campus.

The award funded by Mrs. Maria Bach Dunn and named after her is about another kind of link between the US and Luxembourg: Mrs Bach Dunn

left for the United States many years ago but maintained a keen interest in her home country, illustrated by her generosity to the John E. Dolibois European Center. The Maria Bach Dunn Award recognizes excellent academic performance and good citizenship at the Dolibois Center and in the Luxembourg community.

A third award is the faculty-staff academic Award. It recognizes a firm commitment to high academic standards, excellent citizenship at the Center and in the Luxembourg community and a keen interest in European and international affairs. Funded through the contributions made by faculty and staff members, it is a testimony that the Center is not only a workplace but also a spirit of engagement.

And finally, an award reminds us of a tragedy which happened 15 years ago when Rebecca Andrew and Chris Eggerton died in a tragic skiing-related accident during their presence at the John E. Dolibois European Center. It is for me a most poignant story, which became part of my own story when I became the Dean of the Luxembourg Campus, and I am particularly eager to maintain this award as a memorial to two students and two young vibrant lives.

So, to close this semester let me recognize the Fall 2010 recipients: Jerica Plum (Ruth and Leland Dutton); M. Cecil Cosby and William DeDakis (Marie Bach Dunn); James Greathouse and Zachary Williams (Faculty and Staff); Lindsay Dubocq and Anthony Ramstetter, Jr. (Rebecca Andrew and Chris Eggerton)

Thierry Leterre is the Dean of the Dolibois European Center.