



Méindes Bla'at "Monday Newsletter" – Fall 2014 n°1

September 1st, 2014

A new semester has begun!



The 2014 US Labor Day happens to be our first day of class and (therefore)... labor. This semester we welcome 118 students and four colleagues from Miami University home campus: Professors Goodman (English) and Ianes (Portuguese) will teach the Fall sprint term while Professors Domino (Philosophy) and Brown-Manrique (Architecture) will respectively stay one and two years. I

also would like to recognize the presence of Ms. Asalon, from the Luxembourg Office in Ohio for the first two weeks of the program.

Seeing the world new

For our students, discovering Luxembourg and Europe in an intensive, experience-focused program is a brand new experience. It is also true for staff and faculty members to a certain extent. Most of us know the country, all faculty members know their courses, and we all know Miami. Still, with every term, we start anew. We also look at the world in a fresher manner through the eyes of students landing in foreign cultures and habits. It is said that old habits die hard. The fact is that we hardly have time to form old habits at MUDEC.

Innovation

It does not mean that we forget our tradition, built over the four decades of our presence in Luxembourg. But the best way to keep traditions is to reinforce them through a constant process of innovation. This year, we redesigned our

integration program. In the context of our partnership with the City of Differdange, the traditional beginning of the semester host families' reception became an opportunity to meet with the community at large. The fall 2014 class was welcomed to Luxembourg in a memorable "white party"—the first white party ever in Differdange and at MUDEC. We also added a new destination to our 3 day integration program with the visit of the Maginot line and reviewed our integration sessions to provide a clearer explanation of the way the Center operates. In this, I followed the recommendation of the MUDEC staff during the Dean's retreat last month. Many more innovations are to come, such as a new discovery tour to the battle fields around Verdun later this semester in the context of the commemoration of the beginning of WWI. Keep posted for more...

Safety

A new context means a new sense of the world. It must come with a sound sense of safety and the necessary measures to keep safe. Luxembourg is regularly mentioned and ranked as one of the safest countries in the world. More generally, Europe is regarded as a very safe place with a decrease in crime over the last years according to the 2014 Eurostat Crime statistics. This is good news, but it should not convey a false sense of absolute security and it is important to keep safe by taking simple precautions and being aware of one's environment to ensure a safe experience abroad.

Awareness is the key to enjoy all the promises of a new world.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean

Keeping safe: a few bits of advice to students

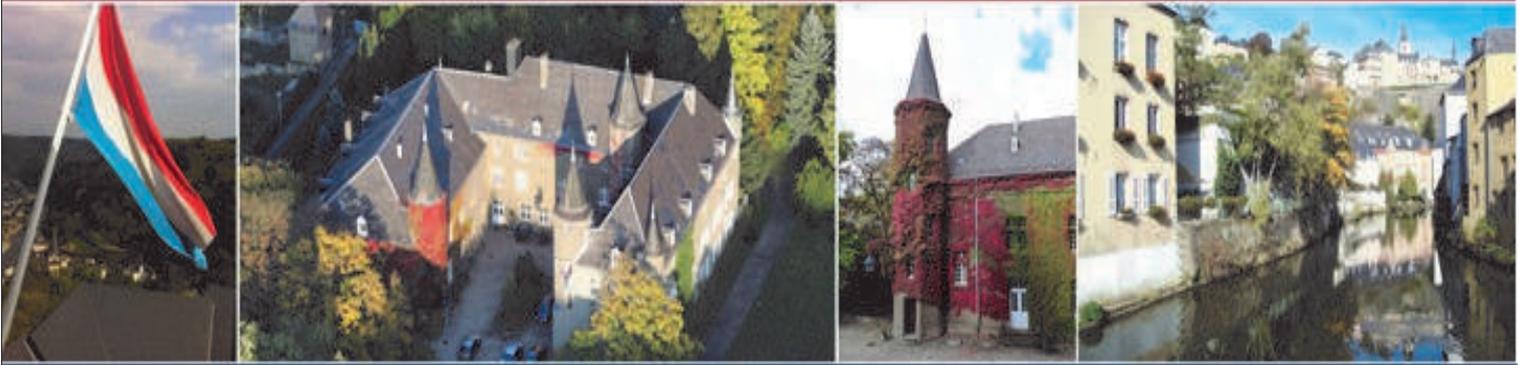
A vigilant attitude considerably helps avoiding being the target of unwanted solicitations and, worse, assault. Do not hesitate to call for help if you feel that your surroundings are not safe. In Luxembourg, call the Luxembourg police (113) if you feel an immediate threat. The EU unified emergency number, 112, also works and applies to medical emergencies. You may also use the MUDEC emergency number.

It is recommended to avoid walking back home or to one's hotel alone after sunset and in isolated areas. Increased attention is required when you are not familiar with a place. When travelling, it is always good to locate difficult areas. In particular, discos and clubs are major places where young tourists are spotted and are victims of criminal schemes or activities. It is important not to display too much cash and to keep the minimum necessary amount of money to avoid being identified as a particularly interesting target.

In the unfortunate circumstance you have been the victim of a theft or an assault, even (and hopefully) if it is a minor incident, you should let the Center know, and report it to the police. The center will naturally help you with this. Lastly, when you travel outside of Luxembourg you should systematically register with the smart traveler program: check the websites of the US embassies of the countries you intend to visit and follow their recommendation in terms of safety in order to make a well-informed decision before going outside the country.

MUDEC'S White Party





The Week of September 1st, 2014

We would like to wish everyone a great first week of classes!



And we would like to give a warm welcome to **Morena Luisi**, the newest addition to the MUDEC family as our new secretary!

Menu options

Want to increase your vegetable intake? Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 9/8 online by **Monday at Midnight**.

Textbooks

If you bought a textbook from a previous student they are in the library with your name on it! There are also books that were left behind on the cart in the library.

Photo of the week

Come grab the Miami flag before you head out this weekend to include in your photos! Use #MUDEC to have them featured.

Student activities website

Want to know the how-tos of life in Luxembourg? Resources for international travel? Find where your classes are held? How to speak Luxembourgish? It's all on the [Student Activities Website!](#)

MUDEC joins EDUROam!

Through the network of European universities, you can use your Miami credentials to connect to WIFI [near institutions across Europe!](#)

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Stay safe while traveling and register [here](#) with the US Embassy's Smart Traveler Program to receive travel alerts, warnings, and latest information!

Happening this week in Luxembourg:

All Week	Schueberfouer
All Week	Guided Tour of the Grand Ducal Palace
Monday	Braderie Street Sale!
Wednesday	Luxembourg City Farmer's Market
Thursday	Differdange Weekly Market
Thursday	Rob Moir Concert
Friday	den Atelier Block Party
Saturday	Last Summer Dance Festival
Saturday	Luxembourg City Farmer's Market
Sunday	Luxembourg City Flea Market
Weekend	Terres Rouges Music Festival

Joyeux anniversaire!

This week we wish a very happy birthday to:
Andrew Tanner, Friday the 5th
Maggie Dames, Friday the 5th
Micayla Spiros, Friday the 5th
Sam Baldwin, Friday the 5th

Send the newsletter to your parents!

Sign them up to receive the weekly MUDEC updates [online!](#)

Happening this week at MUDEC:

Monday—Travel Talk!

At **18:30** in the Grand Hall Katie will talk through all things European travel. Come with your questions!

Tuesday—SFC Elections

Still trying to make up your mind if you want to design your semester activities, gain international leadership experience, and leave your MUDEC legacy? Go for it! Submit your nomination by **Tuesday at 8**. Elections will take place **Tuesday at Noon** in the Grand Hall!

Tuesday—Cactus Run

Realize you forgot something at home? Need a European adapter? Hair straightener? School supplies? Cactus has it all! Katie will lead a run on **Tuesday at 17:30** for anyone who wants to learn the bus route!

Wednesday—Mandatory LUX 335 Lecture

It will be held at **17:00** in the Grand Hall. Professor Briot will walk us through the incredible community engagement opportunities available through LUX 335. Attendance at this presentation is required for LUX 335 credit.

Friday—Biking Discovery Tour

This week we will explore Luxembourg's river valleys and vineyard-lined countryside by bike! Sign up online to reserve your spot!

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
 Friday: **8:00—17:00**
 Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
 Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00 & 13:00—17:00**



Méindes Blaat "Monday Newsletter" – Fall 2014 n°2

September 8th, 2014

A challenge to you...



One of the many reasons our Miami University Dolibois European Center is so special, is that it offers students the opportunity to see the world, and I do not just mean to see the spots of postcards, but to see the people and the cultures of our surrounding European countries. But with the world at our finger tips and those postcard destinations a mere train ride away, it is important to remember to save time to discover the world just outside our doorstep, the Grand Duchy herself, Luxembourg.

Across the semester, many of you will experience once-in-a-lifetime opportunities: explore the old Škocjan caves in Slovenia, listen to the world's best orchestras perform Mozart, encounter stories of WWII from the perspectives of it's war-zone countries, and perhaps even expand your taste palates to include a few of each country's local flavors. But what is just as equally important of an opportunity is to be able to *know* another country and culture in the way that one is only able to do when *living* there.

To be able at the end of your four months here to have an understanding of what makes Luxembourg unique, what life is like for someone who has lived here their whole life, what is happening in the local politics, what are the reasons behind the annual festivals and traditions, or maybe just where can you find the best schneck pastry. These are the opportunities you may not be able to capture with a camera, but will nonetheless leave its lasting impressions.

I challenge each of you to learn and use a phrase (or ten) from the [Luxembourgish Language Guide](#) to start a conversation, each week as you scan the "Happening this Week in Luxembourg" section of our newsletter to pick one thing and go experience a Luxembourgish event (I've conveniently placed it just to the right), to use your LUX 335 Community Engagement or points projects to build a relationship with someone, and for those moments when you just need to sink into the couch and relax, to click through and read an article or two on one of Luxembourg's English news sites, www.wort.lu. The further you explore and the stronger the roots you plant, the more *this country* becomes a part of you.

The MUDEC study abroad program offers you the best of both worlds: you can travel Europe, but you get to *live* in Luxembourg. And the time spent doing the latter is irreplaceable.

Katie Grady, Student Activities Coordinator

Happening this week in Luxembourg

- All Week: [Nelson Mandela - From Prisoner to President](#)
- Mon–Wed: [Schueberfouer](#)
- Monday: [Luxembourg Football Match vs. Belarus](#)
- Wednesday: [Summer in the City Closing Party](#)
- Thursday: [Free Workout Class in the Park](#)
- Friday: [Richie Kotzen Concert](#)
- Saturday: [Animal Rights Concert](#)
- Saturday: [Luxembourg's International Comedy Club](#)
- Weekend: [Grevenmacher Wine Festival](#)



Students discovering Luxembourg during MUDEC Integration



Stay tuned for next week's photo section...
as MUDEC goes Hollywood!



The Week of September 8th, 2014

“Inside the Ivory Tower” Luncheon

Next week, MUDEC has the special honor of hosting the Belgian Ambassador for a formal lunch! A few students will be able to represent Miami (and America) joining him in this lunch! See online for more details!

MUDEC would like to welcome Dr. John Tassoni to Luxembourg!

Join us on Monday at 18:45 at the Aalt Stadhaus across the street for his lecture on

“Exploring Interculture: Possible Futures for the Global Miami Plan”



Residency deadlines

By Friday, all physicals should be completed. If you have yet to complete yours see Crici between 8-9 for a same-day appointment!

Also by Friday, you should be signed up for your TB test.

Reminder

Professor Haag’s courses are cancelled this week, be sure to check the make-up dates!

Menu options

Want to increase your vegetable intake? Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 9/15 online by **Monday at Midnight**.

TB test readings

For those of you who had your TB tests done last Thursday, readings will be held in Crici’s office **Tuesday at Noon**.

Interested in football?

Tuesdays at 15 a pick up game of football/soccer will be held for anyone interested. Meet in the foyer.

Interested in running?

Wednesdays at 10 meet in the foyer if you are interested in exploring the trails or running through Differdange with other runners!

LUX 335 “Community Engagement” meeting

If you are participating in the “Community Engagement” pathing of your LUX 335 credit, a mandatory visit to the Red Cross will be **Wednesday at 17**. Meet Professor Briot in the Grand Hall.

Discover the Differdange “Grand Bois” Trails!

Looking for a nice running path? Like hiking? Just want to go for a walk outside the chateau? Join Katie!

Tuesday at 13—to the View of France
Thursday at 14—to the Belval Playground

Congratulations to the Fall 2014 Elected Student Faculty Council

Co-Chairperson: Philip Gibert
Treasurer/Secretary: Dominic Miller
Communications Chair: Maggie Durrin
Service Chair: Claire Cawley
Project Coordinator: Sarah Tapogna
Environmental Chair: Dan Bendig

Friday’s Discovery Tour:

“The Family of Man” in Clervaux

503 photographs by 273 artists from 68 countries all capturing the equality of man and the human experience.

See online for more details!

Next Friday’s Discovery Tour: Kayak the Luxembourg Ardennes

See the beauty of Le Lac de Haute-Sûre and the Ardenne region. Spots are limited! See online for more details and to sign up!

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
Friday: **8:00—17:00**
Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00 & 13:00—17:00**

Photo of the week

Come grab the Miami flag before you head out this weekend to include in your photos! Use #MUDEC to have them featured.

Student activities website

Want to know the how-tos of life in Luxembourg? Resources for international travel? What is showing at Luxembourg museums? How to speak Luxembourgish? It’s all on the [website!](#)

Joyeux anniversaire!

This week we wish a very happy birthday to:
Morgan Kuhn, Tuesday the 9th
Meredith Stopka, Thursday the 11th
Sarah Tapogna, Friday the 12th
Rachel Chernos, Sunday the 14th

Ready to do laundry?

The machines in the cave are available for your use! Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici on your MULaa (\$7). Sign up to reserve a laundry time on the schedule in the cave.



MUDEC goes Hollywood!



Do not mind the paparazzi outside the château, they are just trying to catch a glimpse of MUDEC's new *MOVIESTARS!*

At the start of the semester, SAMSA, an award-winning Luxembourgish production company cast fourteen MUDEC students as extras in their post World War II film. In the past week, these students went for costume fittings, hair & make-up styling, and finally two nights of shooting that went into the early hours this past Tuesday and Wednesday. Playing American soldiers and Luxembourgish villagers, our students got a chance to step back in time and connect with their history, bond with modern-day Luxembourg residents, and experience nightfall in beautiful Vianden.

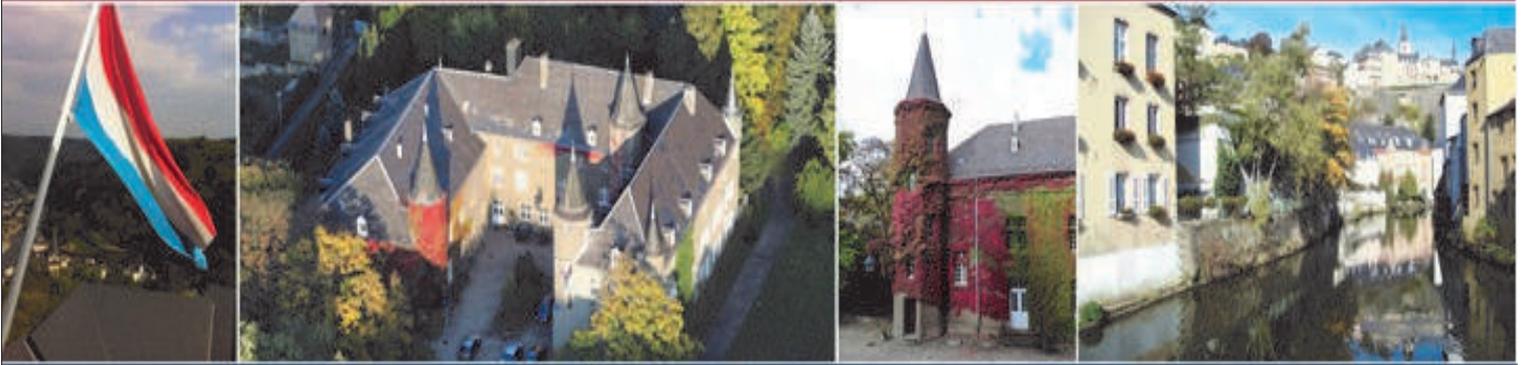
Off-camera, some of the gentleman, sporting freshly cut 1940s military hairstyles, put on their collectable World War II soldier uniforms and created their backstories of nicknames, hometowns, and the loves waiting for them back at home. On-camera, they jumped out of moving military jeeps to protect the people or gathered in a café attempting to woo the local Luxembourgish ladies. For those 5–6 hours of filming, they got to experience life as a 1940s American soldier might.

But while representing their country, our students were also able to befriend other Luxembourgish residents. They met a fellow extra who worked at the World War II Museum in Diekirch who explained the backstories and lesser-known facts about the military uniforms. While waiting for their scene to be called, a multi-lingual card game of "BS" passed the time. And, in those cold, early morning hours, the students who were paired with other extras from around the globe into "Luxembourgish villager families" began taking care of each other like true families would, bringing each other warm cups of coffee and goodies from the snack table between takes.

It is not everyday that one gets to show off in front of the bright lights and movie set cameras, that alone is an experience to write home about. But the ability to launch your (promising!) movie careers while not only experiencing a bit of your country's history in your host-country's land, but also getting to forge friendships with your international co-stars... that is an opportunity that is truly cool.

Katie Grady, Student Activities Coordinator





The Week of September 15th, 2014

“Inside the Ivory Tower” Luncheon

MUDEC is honored to welcome Belgium’s Ambassador to Luxembourg, Ambassador Antoine, to the Château



Monday at Noon

A select group of students will have the opportunity to learn about the life of a foreign ambassador, international careers, and the political world of Belgium and Luxembourg!

The Pianist

Reminder to all in Professor Haag’s HST 270 course, viewing of the film *The Pianist* will be **Monday at 18:40** in Charles the Bold.

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 9/22 online by **Monday at Midnight**.

TB test readings

For those of you who had your TB tests done last Thursday, readings will be held in Crici’s office **Tuesday at Noon**.

Football?

Meet in the foyer **Tuesdays at 15:00** for a pick up game of football or basketball with local kids!

Interested in running?

Wednesdays at 10:00 meet in the foyer if you are interested in exploring the trails with other runners!

Rescheduled Hike

Join Katie on a hike to the Belval Playground this **Thursday at 14:00**.

LUX 335 “Community Engagement”

If you are participating in the “Community Engagement” pathing of your LUX 335 credit, a mandatory visit to the Maison Relais will be **Wednesday at 18:30**. Meet Katie in the Grand Hall.

Semester t-shirt design

The contest has begun! Submit your design ideas for your semester t-shirt and the winning design will receive the ultimate souvenir, a Luxembourg flag!

Yearbook committee?

Interested in being on the yearbook committee? Tell your project coordinator, Sarah Tapogna this week!

Photo of the week

Come grab the Miami flag before you head out this weekend to include in your photos! Use #MUDEC to have them featured.

Joyeux anniversaire!

This week we wish a very happy birthday to: **Caitlin Cannella**, Wednesday the 17th
Kelly Douglass, Wednesday the 17th

MUDEC Welcomes Back Mr. Eugene Prim!

Wednesday at 17:00

Mr. Eugene Prim, the Chairman of the Solistes Européens Luxembourg will be our guest speaker for the Wednesday Lecture to discuss one of Luxembourg’s most prestigious cultural groups and the celebration of their 25th anniversary!



Thanks to Mr. Eugene Prim and our Professor Backes, you are cordially invited to the anniversary celebration concert of the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg Orchestra!

And as the official 25th Anniversary Concert, the Grand-Duc Henri will be present, as well as many other political representatives including our Prime Minister, Mr. Xavier Bettel and the Lord Mayor of Germany’s capital Berlin, Mr. Klaus Wowereit.

We are lucky to be included in what will be one of this season’s highlights in the cultural life of Luxembourg! We have the opportunity to send 40 students, but you must sign up for your free ticket by **this Thursday!**

Ready to do laundry?

The machines in the cave are available for your use! Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici on your MULaa (\$7). Sign up to reserve a laundry time on the schedule in the cave.

This Week in Luxembourg

All Week: **Illusionists at Neumünster Abbey**
 Tuesday: **Kid Ink Concert @ Rockhal**
 Wednesday: **MUDAM Music Wednesdays - FREE!**
 Friday: **Canadian Brass Concert in Echternach**
 Saturday: **Urban Art Festival in Esch - FREE!**
 Sat & Sun: **Sleeping Beauty Ballet - FREE!**
 Sat & Sun: **Book Festival in Viandan Castle - FREE!**

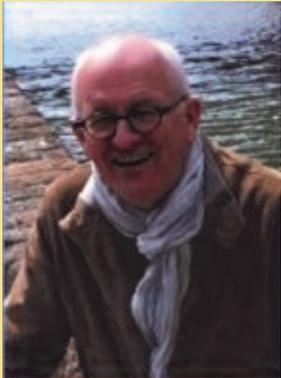
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Happy Birthday, "Solistes Européens, Luxembourg"



The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has two important Symphony Orchestras, the first being the "Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg" (OPL Orchestra) founded in 1933 as the former RTL Orchestra and the second being the "Solistes Européens, Luxembourg" (SEL Orchestra), founded only on September 20th, 1989.

The SEL Orchestra celebrates its 25th anniversary today, September 22, 2014 with a concert at the Philharmonic Hall in the presence of His Royal Highness, Grand-Duc Henri, Luxembourg's Prime Minister, his Excellency Mr. Xavier Bettel, and many other political and cultural representatives from Luxembourg and abroad, among them Mr. Klaus Wowereit, the Lord Mayor of Germany's capital, Berlin.

The SEL Orchestra was founded by a group of soloists from the most eminent Western and Eastern European symphony orchestras, previously separated from each other by the so called "iron curtain" which, from 1945 on, divided Europe into two separate areas.

By a strange coincidence the founding of the orchestra SEL took place almost seven weeks before the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 which marked the fall of communism in Europe. The SEL musicians had thus "taken down the wall" seven weeks earlier!

This very European orchestra has been based in Luxembourg from the beginning, and since 1989 its musicians have been meeting regularly in the Grand Duchy for rehearsals, concerts and recordings. The European composition of this ensemble makes it one of the pillars of the Luxembourg music scene.

We may note here that the spirit of the SEL orchestra is unique, since it is composed predominantly of prin-

cipal players from many of Europe's top orchestras who often travel from Luxembourg on concert tours throughout Europe, performing in the major concert halls of Vienna, Bratislava, Cologne, Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, and elsewhere.

The year 2004 saw a major expansion of the European Union (EU), involving ten countries, seven of which had been part of the former Eastern Bloc (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). On this occasion the SEL performed at the United Nations in New York.

The SEL performed for almost 20 years in the Grand Duchy and abroad under the direction of its founding conductor Jack Martin Händler. In 2010 the well known German conductor Christoph König took over as Music Director.

For almost 10 years all Miami students studying at Miami's John E. Dolibois European Center in Luxembourg have been fortunate enough to be offered the chance to get free tickets each semester for all the concerts given by the "Solistes Européens, Luxembourg" at the new Philharmonic Hall in Luxembourg City.

"The SEL Orchestra was founded by a group of soloists from the most eminent Western and Eastern European symphony orchestras, previously separated from each other by the so called 'iron curtain'"

Once a semester the conductor Mr. Christoph König and his musicians wel-

come MUS189 students to a rehearsal weekend, where they learn about the orchestra and the various instruments, watch the teamwork between the musicians, their conductor and the soloist and see how, beginning with the first rehearsal, the music gradually comes together.

In recognition of MUDEC's collaboration and its wonderful relationship and friendship with the SEL Symphony Orchestra, let us send our warmest thanks to the SEL and our heartiest congratulations on their 25th anniversary: AD MULTOS ANNOS, "Solistes Européens, Luxembourg"!

*Professor Georges Backes,
Professor of Music 189 at MUDEC*



The Week of September 22nd, 2014

Bon Voyage! On Friday we wish our students, faculty, and staff safe and happy travels as they depart on their sprint course study tours to:
Avignon, Barcelona, Frankfurt, Paris, and Nice.

Welcome Back! We also would like to welcome back Dean Leterre from his week-long visit to the Oxford Campus!



Bus to the SEL Orchestra concert

For those of you who took advantage of the generously donated tickets to see the SEL's 25th Anniversary Concert, the buses will leave from the Château **Monday at 18:30.**

Joyeux anniversaire!

This week we wish a very happy birthday to:
Tom Shields, Monday the 22nd
Eamonn Walsh, Friday the 26th
Ryan Philbin, Friday the 26th

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 10/6 online by **Monday at Midnight.**

TB test readings

If you were in the last round of TB testing last Thursday, your readings will be in Katie's office **Tuesday at Noon.**

LUX 335 "Community Engagement"

Participants in the "Community Engagement" pathing of the LUX 335 credit, the mandatory visit to the Maison Relais will be **Wednesday at 18:00.** Meet Katie in the Grand Hall.

Before you depart for study tours...

Two things to double check: Have you packed your passport? Have you emptied your leftovers from the refrigerators in the cave?

SFC Updates

Wednesday Bonfire at 19:00

Join the SFC Wednesday night for music, s'mores, and a bonfire on the Château's side lawn!

T-Shirt Design Contest

Have a design you want for your semester t-shirt? Submit it to Maggie Durrin. All submissions due Friday!

Ready to do laundry?

Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici on your MULaa (\$7) for the machines in the cave. Remember you must sign up on the sign up sheet! Other laundry options are also available [here.](#)

Belval Université gym

There is a brand new gym that has opened at the Belval Université stop that offers unlimited use for 20 Euro a month. If interested, see Katie for more details!

Photo albums

Send your fun photos to Katie to be featured as we launch MUDEC's photo albums!

This Week in Luxembourg

All Week: Nelson Mandela Exhibit - Closing!

Monday: Jarlath Regan Comedy @ Konrad's Cafe

Tuesday: Jarlath Regan Comedy @ Konrad's Cafe

Tuesday: Sylvan Ezzo Concert @ Rockhal - FREE!

Wednesday: Pakamos Concert @ Rockhal

Wednesday: Mountain Men Blues Concert @ Aalt Stadhaus

Thursday: Nutrition & Our Energy Talk (English)

Thursday: Differdange Weekly Market



Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
Friday: **8:00—17:00**
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Academic Offices:
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The magic of places



It is a pleasure to welcome our students, faculty and staff back to MUDEC after the first session of study tours. This time, France was the big favorite with no less than 3 tours to Paris, Avignon and Nice. Barcelona and Frankfurt were the two other destinations.

Embedment

A study tour is more than a field trip. It cannot even be regarded as a "co-curricular" activity. It fully belongs to the curriculum of a course. Ideally a study tour is an experience of embedment between in-class and out-of-class learning with one's instructor. I recently met in Oxford with one of my former students who had been on my study tour to Vienna and Budapest with his class last year. He told me how he had enjoyed discovering Budapest, a place one might not think of when visiting Europe.

Places to learn

Hungary was a place to learn about the contradictions of media in Eastern Europe: Hungary, home of Prezi for instance, has a lot to offer in terms of media developments. At the same time, the country is known for its heavily criticized media laws. Now, it is one thing to be apprised of the debates that have surrounded the adoption of these laws and it was especially interesting to have two significantly different perspectives on them. Still being in the country added a dimension: we could actually give a quick assessment of how people live and what their struggles were. An alternative definition

of a MUDEC study tour potentially would be: "comprehensive understanding of a topic by the grace of the place."

Places to be

Places play a great role. Reading and understanding texts is a large part of my academic work. I am usually not interested in the person of a writer or a philosopher beyond basic information. Still, I have always been interested in discovering houses where they have lived—or where they live as I have collected precious memories of meeting authors at their place, or in places they liked to have a drink or share a meal with me. It tells something. I might not be able to say exactly what, but it does tell something. What we are is perhaps less important than where we are.

Let the magic happen

The magic of places is quintessentially unpredictable even in the most carefully planned study tour. Two years ago, I took my communication class to Colleville, Normandy where Omaha Beach is located. The U.S. cemetery is located on the cliff where the Germans had placed their heavy defenses. When you walk on the beautiful beach, and turn to the cliff, you imagine what it felt to run toward death. You just cannot avoid feeling it in your bones. Unlike June 6, 1944, the day of our visit was beautiful. The tide was low. Students spontaneously drew on the sand a gigantic American flag. Many tides since then have erased the ephemeral drawing. Still, this flag will stay with me forever.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean

"An alternative definition of a MUDEC study tour potentially would be: 'comprehensive understanding of a topic by the grace of the place.'"



The Week of October 6th, 2014

Be featured in next week's Monday Newsletter—Study Tour Special Edition!

Want to share a few words about your study tour experience? Or perhaps show off your favorite picture? Sign up online to contribute for your study tour! Spots are limited, only the first two responses from each tour will be chosen!

The SFC brings to you... Study Tour Penny Wars!

This holiday season, help the SFC raise money for local children's holiday gifts by representing your base study tour course in MUDEC's Penny Wars! Look for more information from your SFC this week!

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 10/13 *online* by **Tuesday at Noon**.

Marketing class's Bofferding visit

Just a reminder (as if you could forget!) to those in the Marketing 291 course, **Wednesday at 17:30** is the field trip to the Bofferding Brewery!

Maison Relais visit

Our rescheduled visit date is this **Wednesday at 18:00** for anyone on the LUX 335 Community Engagement track who is not yet committed to their location. Meet Katie in the Grand Hall to walk over together.

New laundry option!

Mr. Rabbani from Differdange's Masala Hut has kindly offered his laundry services for 10€ a load (with a soft drink included!) See *online* for more details!

T-Shirt design voting!

Vote for your favorite design to be used on your semester t-shirt this **Tuesday through Friday online!**

Private classical concert?

Interested in attending an exclusive private classical music concert on **Tuesday, October 21st**? See Katie for details!

Happening this week in Luxembourg!

- Tuesday:** [Lily Wood Concert](#)
- Thursday:** [Fu Manchu Concert](#)
- Thursday:** ["Moskinalker" Concert](#)
- Thursday:** [Differdange Farmer's Market](#)
- Saturday:** [D.E. Haggerty Book Reading & Signing](#)
- Saturday:** [The Fray Concert](#)
- Saturday:** [Chantel McGregor Concert](#)
- Sunday:** [Annual Nutmarket in Vianden](#)
- Sunday:** [Marianne Faithful Concert](#)
- All Weekend:** [Red Rock Challenge in Esch](#)
- All Weekend:** [Luxembourg Open - Tennis Tournament](#)
- All Weekend:** [FIA Car Race Competition](#)

★★ Saturday: Night of the Museums!

This Saturday between 6 pm and 1 am for just 10€ you can have entrance into seven of Luxembourg's finest museums for its annual "Nuit des Musées" filled with live dance and music performances and special guests!

We are excited to announce the creation of MUDEC's Architecture Studio!

And as it does share the library space, we kindly ask of those not in the course to please respect the students' private working space. Merci villmols!

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
 Friday: **8:00—17:00**
 Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

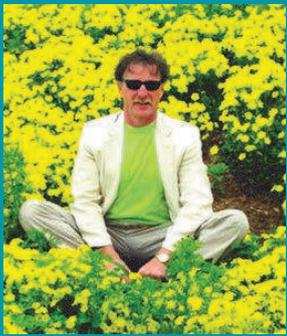
Academic Offices:
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Méindes Blaat "Monday Newsletter" – Fall 2014 n°6

October 13th, 2014

Provence ENG 323: Creative Non-Fiction Writing



On the last night of our study tour in Provence, we'd arranged to eat dinner at Restaurant Les Coquelicots in the tiny village of Suzette. Suzette is located in the heart of the Dentelles de Montmirail, a small mountain range in the Vaucluse, and the drive up the

winding road in our enormous Emile Weber bus as the day lengthened into dusk had our charming but cautious bus driver, Pierric, muttering, as he'd been wont to do during our four days together, "*C'est une catastrophe!*"

After spending previous days exploring Roman ruins in Nimes and the Pope's Palace in Avignon, we'd spent that morning at the outdoor market in Vaison La Romaine, where hundreds of vendors lined the streets selling Provencal crafts and delicacies: artisanal olive oil; embroidered dish towels for moms back home; lavender; lavender honey; and, every imaginable variety of chevre and charcuterie, including *caillette*, which we'd read about in class (Traditionally prepared on "Day of the Pig," *caillette* looks like a hamburger, but definitely is not, made as it is, from pork fat, pork liver, spices, spinach and who knows what else).

That afternoon, we'd tasted wine in two Cotes du Rhone villages, Gigondas and Vacqueyras, where the students had learned more than they thought it was possible to know about grape-growing and wine-production and had their palettes wetted and whetted on hearty reds, a crisp rosé, and a sweet Muscat. One of the owners in Vacqueyras was an American businessman from Seattle,

who'd recently purchased 100 acres of vineyards and an old château, joining French friends in their business, and all many of us could think, somewhat dazzled, was 'Dang, what a lucky duck!'

And dazzled we continued to be when we clambered out of the bus and climbed the rest of the way up to the restaurant, because there was still enough light to walk out into the surrounding vineyards and snap several million photos with the Dentelles de Montmirail as a backdrop. Then it was down into Les Coquelicots, where we were the only guests—it was the end of season—and Frankie the chef had prepared a special meal for us.

Back in Differdange, I'd had the considerable pleasure of asking class members which one they preferred to eat for their main course, "A bunny or a lamb?"

Fourteen chose *Cuisse de lapin* (rabbit) while ten opted for *Tian d'agneau au petit epeautre de Sault* (lamb stew served with spelt from Sault). After the elaborate first salad courses (chevre and tapenade stuffed crisp pastries or Caprese salad with anchovies and capers), the bunny and lamb rolled out, followed by crème brulee for all. And maybe there was wine and toasting, putting to good use what we'd learned that afternoon (red with the lamb, rosé with the bunny), and shouts of "La Belle France," "To Study Tour," and "Sir Eric, Sir!"

But who can say for sure. What's certain is that no one went home hungry.

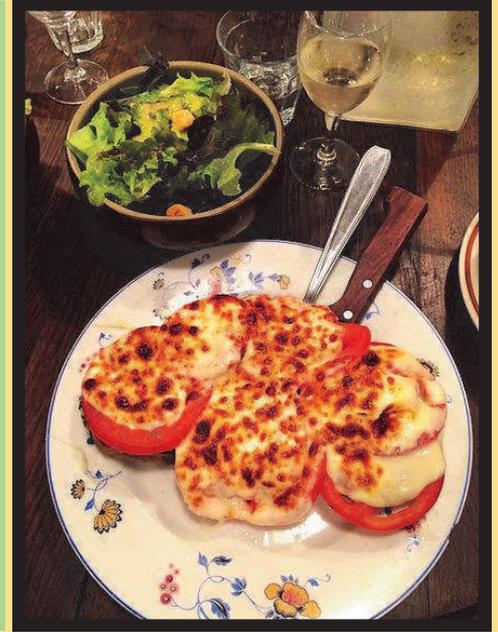
*Dr. Eric Goodman, Professor at MUDEC teaching
ENG 323 for Fall 2014*

Provence ENG 323: Creative Non-Fiction Writing



The south of France proved to be a treasure trove of hidden culinary delights and beautiful sights. The first stop on this adventure was Avignon, a wonderful town that was home to not only the Pope's Palace, but also some of the best goat cheese tarts this author has ever had. In addition to the delectable tarts our group also explored several ancient Roman buildings in the nearby town of Nimes. Later that evening we enjoyed a local specialty called bouillabaisse, which is a fish stew that is traditional to the that region. Our final stop was in the town of Provence where we tasted some of the finest wines in the area. The cherry on top of this fantastic trip was a morning light show in an old cave on our last morning together. The excellent guidance of Professor Goodman and his wife, Susan, meant that we were given the inside scoop throughout the trip. Overall the trip was an incredible experience and since the entire class kept a travel journey during the duration of the trip we will certainly not be forgetting it any time soon.

Dan Bendig, MUDEC Student in ENG 323 Fall 2014



On the sprint study course for ENG 323, we ventured into Avignon, France. While there, we indulged in the variety of new foods native to the area, including: cuillette, blood sausage, bouillabaisse, rabbit, sardines, tartines, lamb stew, pâté, and fresh goat cheese. We learned about the city's history through touring the Pope's Palace, that is 700 years old and housed seven popes during the captivity of Babylonia, when Rome wasn't safe. Later in the day, we enjoyed a light show on the inner walls of the palace. During day trips, we explored the Arena of Nimes and learned about the gladiator fights that took place 20,000 years ago. We also explored Gigondas, a small village that produces Côte du Rhône reds and rosés; we learned about their wine making process and tasted the wine native to their area. All in all, we ended the trip satisfied with the food, wine and the culture that we were immersed in.

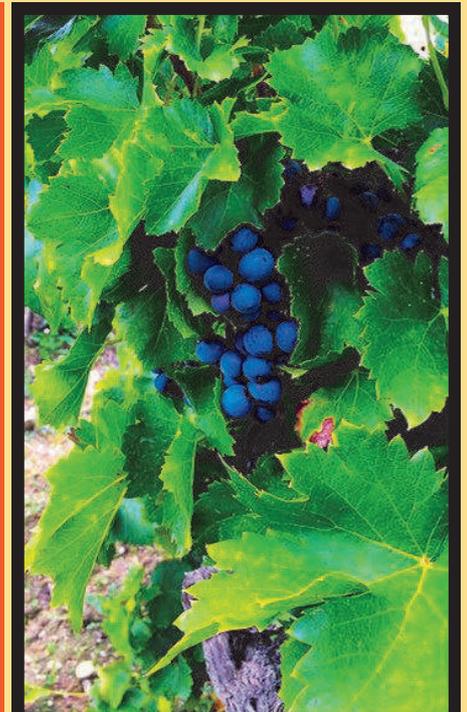


Kassi Simpson, MUDEC Student in ENG 323 Fall 2014



What pops out at me is the display of creamy white and soft yellow fromages or cheeses. The majority of the selection here is goat cheese assortments as it is a principal product of Provence. Lush fields of green give the goats gobbles of grass to graze upon. The result of this grazing is magnificent. The cheese here in Provence pairs nicely with the wine that flows out of this area. Plump purple grapes grant a soothing wine to swallow. The wine racks at the market are stocked sky high. Across from the wine merchant is a cute patisserie, filled with beaucoup des baguettes and other breads. I love breaking a crunchy baguette and dipping it in olive oil. Olive oil is an essential ingredient for making Provencal olives with lemon and oregano; this is a great snack. More spices are available at the market in generous amounts for a cheap price. Lavender is a popular herb that is harvested in Provence. Its scent floats in the air as I stroll around. After much contemplation, I walk out with a baguette, olives, a quiche, and macaroons. My tummy craves this meal I am to consume. I find myself a petit bench in the park next to Le Palais des Papes. I lay out my ingredients – what a wonderful sight to see. It is Sunday in Provence, and life is to be relished.

Roberta Fritz-Klaus, MUDEC Student in ENG 323 Fall 2014



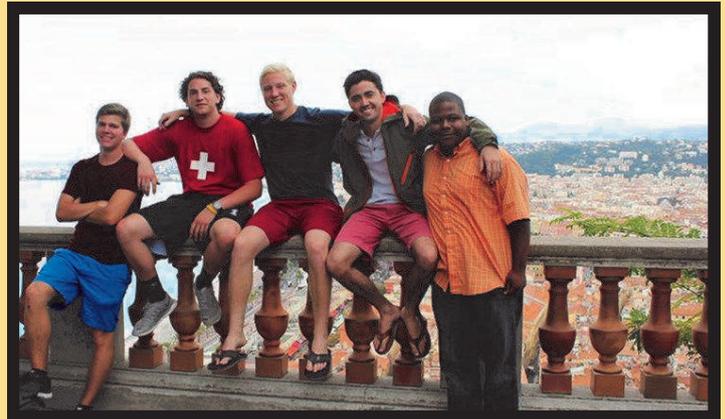
French Riviera PHL 103: Society & the Individual



In order to gain a better understanding of the famous Philosopher Frederick Nietzsche, our professor Brain Domino decided it was best for us to travel to Nice, France and Monaco for our study tour. Nice, France is an amazing place that not many

people even know about including myself and about 70% of the students. Paris and Milan and other places in France usually overshadow Nice. Much of our days consisted of exploring why Nietzsche settled down and made Nice his home after being hit with a great illness that led to his eventual death later. There was so much natural beauty from the beaches, the architecture, and even great cuisine that we indulged in. One of my favorite parts of the trip was traveling to nearby Monaco and getting a taste of the huge luxury Yachts and grand views that were just unbelievable. Some of group even got to swim in the Mediterranean Sea and dive off these gigantic rocks which was unbelievable. Most of all in our study tour, I was able to closely bond with my professor and peers in a way that the classroom experience can't do. Not only did I broaden my horizons with the places that we went, but I also shared experiences and knowledge with my fellow peers, which made it an awesome experience that I will never forget!

Philip Gibert, MUDEC Student in PHL 103 Fall 2014



During our study tour in Nice, France we were able to enjoy the weather while also getting a sense of how Nietzsche lived during his time in Nice. We were lucky to have weather of sunny and 75. The beaches, the town, and the weather made it for the best study tour. Our class did a walk through Eze, France, which was a walk that Nietzsche did often. During our free time we were able to go to the beaches, walk around the city of Nice, and visit Monaco. Our class enjoyed Monaco, we cliff jumped and swam along the Mediterranean Sea. My favorite part of the trip was how close our class got with each other and Professor Domino. It was a very fun trip and I'm glad I was able to experience Nice, as I would not have gone there on my own. Southern France is definitely a place that is unforgettable!

Macy Anderson, MUDEC Student in PHL 103 Fall 2014

Barcelona

SPN 335: Catalonia in Europe

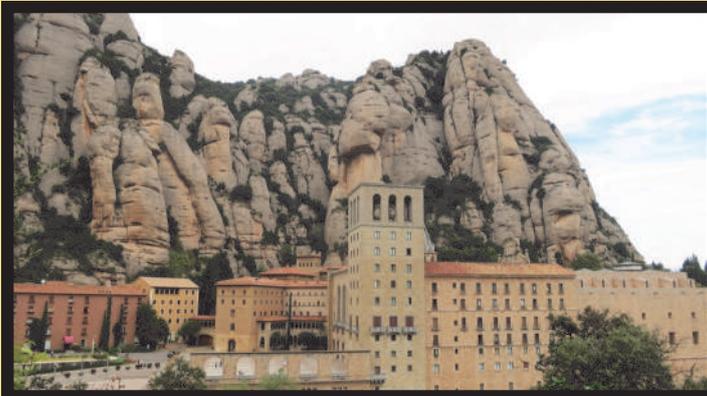


Even before I learned how to trill my “rr”s in my fourth grade Spanish class, I knew I wanted to visit Spain. From the beach to paella to sangria to flamenco...what’s not to like? When I heard a sprint study tour course was going to Barcelona, I did everything in my power to get into it.

When I stepped off the plane, the warm climate and palm trees everywhere I turned surprised me. I definitely regretted only bringing one pair of shorts. We were greeted by our Catalan tour guide, Mariona, who led us around her city. As we were walking around, one thing that shocked me was all the history that surrounded us. One moment we would be looking at buildings with remnants of the bombing dur-

ing the Spanish Civil War in their walls and then the next minute we would be in front of La Sagrada Família, Antoni Gaudí’s masterpiece cathedral he started building in 1881 which still has about 20 more years until it’s completed. Barcelona was full of intricate alleyways, delicious food, locals and tourists, magnificent landmarks...Barcelona was full of life. Going to an FC Barça game at Camp Nou and hearing 100,000 spectators uproar when Messi scored a header goal sent chills down my spine. We saw so much of the city in our short amount of time, but there’s still so much more to be discovered. I don’t know what the future has in store for me, but I hope it leads me back to Barcelona.

Victoria Tersigni, MUDEC Student in SPN 335 Fall 2014



Barcelona is a beautiful city, one with life, color and the Catalan way of life. Barcelona is the only place that you will find such a strong loyalty to something or a belief in Spain. The Catalans are an independent group and they make that known from the second you step off the plane. The Catalan flag is everywhere. Whether it has the blue triangle with a white star or it is just a flag with red and yellow stripes. You know you are in Catalonia.

During our group lunch, looking down on this vast city, every part looked so different. There were no

two buildings alike and from the outside looking in, many of them looked incredibly run down but when you went inside, it was actually quite new and renovated. Barcelona is truly a city where you cannot judge a book by its cover. Things may appear much different than they actually are.

Our study tour to Barcelona gave our class the opportunity to see many different aspects of the beautiful city. We were able to go to an FC Barcelona game, visit different historic sights and try all sorts of food all in a few short days. We were so incredibly lucky to see a great deal of Barcelona.

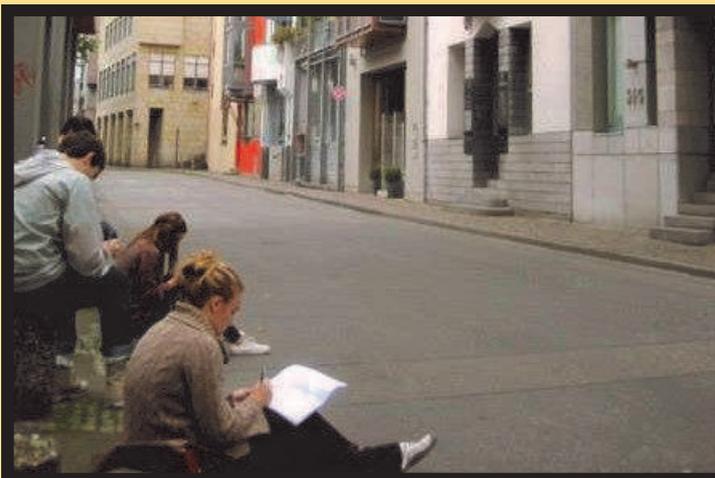
Mikayla McIntyre, MUDEC Student in SPN 335 Fall 2014

Frankfurt ARC 188: Ideas in Architecture



The range in architecture makes it clear why we went to Frankfurt. It was interesting to see the variety from very old to recent buildings. We visited the University of Frankfurt. It was interesting to compare European universities to American universities. The Frankfurt group had two really great meals. On the first evening, we went to a traditional German restaurant. We had the Eichkaterl Platte consisting of bunch of different meats and potatoes. On a different night, we went to a traditional Italian restaurant and had homemade pasta. They even twirled the pasta in cheese before serving it to us. It was so cool to see the food being so freshly prepared in front of us.

Savannah Pocisk, MUDEC Student in ARC 188 Fall 2014



The first night in Frankfurt we went to this restaurant that had the tastiest/most filling food. It was called a Frankfurter which was a huge platter of sauerkraut with one huge sausage wiener on the outer rim and 4 more smaller wieners buried throughout the sauerkraut. To top it all off, 2 pork chops were on top which were unbelievably pleasing to my taste buds. When you bite into it, you can either choose to get the salty crunchiness of the skin or bite the other half of it which is nice and juicy. Overall, the food in Frankfurt was great and if you decide to go, I definitely suggest getting a pork chop!

Nick Blasgen, MUDEC Student in ARC 188 Fall 2014

Paris ART 188: History of Western Art



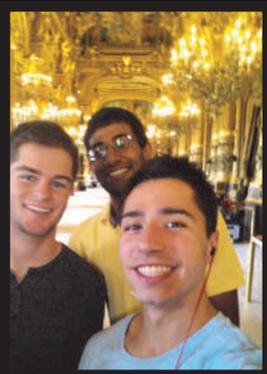
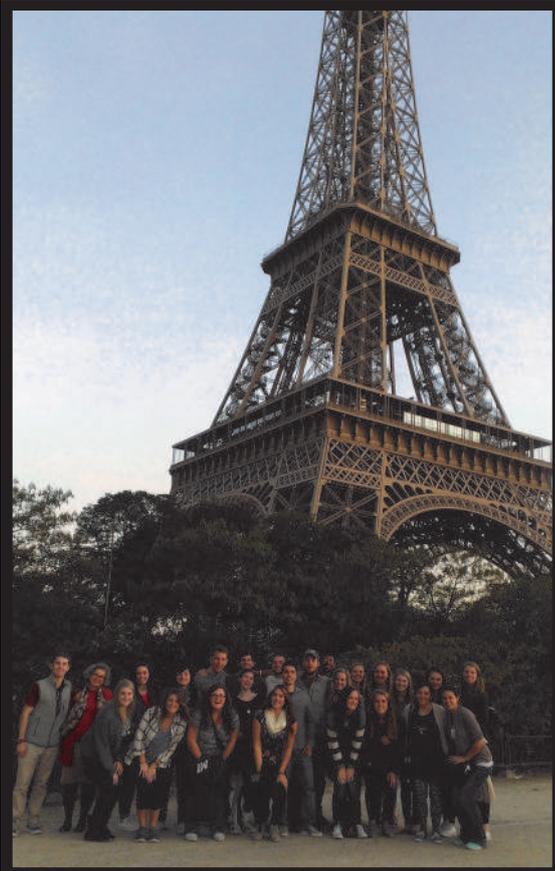
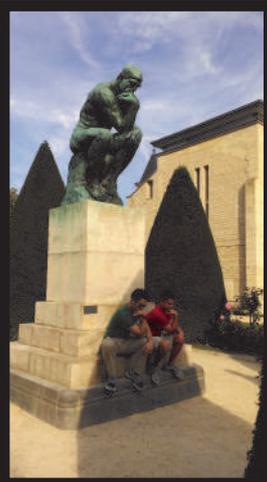
I chose art history not knowing the study tour would be in Paris, and I am thrilled to say that this was my favorite trip so far. We learned everything from how to navigate the Paris metro to finding hidden entrances to the Louvre. However, one of my favorite things about this trip was getting to know my classmates. This study tour really allowed us to spend time with one another and get to know each other over the span of five days.

After taking a 4.5-hour bus and checking into our hotel, all of us were ready to see the Eiffel Tower and the rest of Paris, too. We all successfully used the metro to the Seine River by the Eiffel Tower and took more selfies than we should have. After we felt like we successfully documented our first walk through Paris, we boarded the Bateaux Mouches where we ate dinner and sailed down the Seine River. We were able to see some of the most important sights of the city, including the Louvre, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the Love Lock Bridge. We felt so fancy drinking white wine and slurping cold asparagus soup - it was a great way to start off the study tour!

The next four days were filled with museums and exploring. We went to Louvre first (of course), Palais Garnier, Musée Rodin, the Grand Palais (Nikki de Saint Phale exhibition), a guided night tour, Musée Gustave Moreau, the Centre Pompidou, the Musée d'Orsay, and finally Montmartre. I would go into detail about them all, but my word count is limited. Each place had its own charm and really gave us an insight of the art of Paris!

In between going to all these places, we had some free time to explore on our own, which is where we got to learn some of the ins and outs of the city. I still can't believe how many things we were able to do and see in such a short amount of time! I can safely say that I felt like I got a good look into Paris throughout the five days. I cannot begin to say how great of a job Professor Metz did on planning this trip. I think that each and every 24 of us had our own uniquely awesome experience on this study tour and I know it wouldn't have been that way with anyone else planning it.

Jayne Consolo, MUDEC Student in ART 188 Fall 2014





The Week of October 13th, 2014

Help the SFC help Luxembourg's children!

Ways you can participate:

Tunes for Tots: Pay a euro to the "Jukebox" during lunch to request a song to play!

Used Toy Collection: Ask your host families if they have old toys they'd like to donate to the Luxembourg's Refugee Center!

Study Tour Wars: Starting this week, donate your coins to gift fundraising and battle against the other study tour courses for a breakfast in Dean Leterre's apartment!

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 10/20 [online](#) by **Tuesday at Noon**.

SFC's "Wednesday Walk"

Your Environmental Chair, Dan Bendig, will lead a hike through Differdange's "Grand Bois." Come discover one of Luxembourg's past times—strolling through the beautiful nature! We will leave **Wednesday at 5 pm**.

Semester t-shirts

Congratulations to Maggie Durrin on creating your winning t-shirt design! If you have not yet entered your size [online](#), please do so by the end of the week!

Joyeux anniversaire

This week we wish a very happy birthday to...
Kevin Bertelsen, Tuesday the 14th

Happening this week in Luxembourg:

All Week: **Luxembourg Women's Tennis Open**
 All Week: **Salvador Dali Exhibit in Vianden**
 Tues & Weds: **Badke Ballet**
 Weds & Thurs: **Stand-Up Comedy**
 Thursday: **Alex Hepburn Concert**
 Friday: **"Black & White Party"**
 Saturday: **Diwali 2014**
 Saturday: **Lindsey Stirling Concert**
 Saturday: **The Smith Street Band Concert**
 Saturday: **80's Party**
 Sunday: **StrongmanRun in Differdange!!**
 Sunday: **Autumn Leaves Jazz Festival**
 Sunday: **Agnes Obel Concert**
 Sunday: **Mantelsonndeg - Shopping Day!**

Friday's Discovery Tour: Moselle Wine Tasting in Trier

Friday at Noon we will visit Germany's oldest city to do a tasting of the Moselle valley wines! There are only 18 spots available, so sign up [online](#)!

Upcoming events—mark your calendars!

Monday, 10/20 - LUX 335 SEL Concert:

MUDEC has been invited to the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg concert next Monday. Attendance is required for completion of your LUX 335 credit!

Tuesday, 10/21 - Chicago Symphony Orchestra:

For those lucky 19 students who signed up quickly last week, the private recital and Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert will be next Tuesday! See your email for more details.

Thursday, 10/23 - Halloween Haunted Cave:

Join the SFC next Thursday in turning the cave into a scary, haunted house for the children at the local Maison Re-lais! You will get 20 LUX 335 points for participating. Be sure to sign up on the Google Doc coming your way from the SFC!

Tuesday, 10/28 - Class Registration:

For all students studying at MUDEC, your registration is together on October 28th at 8 am Oxford time. If you have priority registration, you can register at 7 am Oxford time. All of the schedules will be viewable online starting this Wednesday. If you have any questions, you can live chat the registrar [online here](#).

Saturday, 11/15 - Quidditch Workshop:

Save the date as a great weekend to stay in Luxembourg. We will host teams from across Europe to come teach us the sport of Quidditch! More details to come!

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
 Friday: **8:00—17:00**
 Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
 Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00 & 13:00—17:00**



All Saints memories



All Saints Day has always been for me a landmark in the autumnal period fraught with ambiguity. In France, where I grew up, it was, as it is the case in Luxembourg, the first break in the school trimester. As any child, I was looking forward to the leisure time. It was actually the only thing I was looking for. All Saints vacations were the least loved vacations, and the fall the worst season of my childhood.

and white TV and no VCR, streaming, DVD to compensate. The highlight was a program showing the trailers of three movies released during the week. There were tolerable moments such as watching *The Perfectly Coiffed Dame* reading the TV program of the day before lunch and before dinner. We were eventually saved from total TV disaster by *The adventures of Rin tin tin*, the coolest dog of the West, and by the Sunday Western. That would be my favorite, but it was a bitter sweet one. Sunday was before Monday, and Monday, well, that was school again. And dictation.

Mourning month

All Saints is celebrated on November 1st. By way of consequence, it is separated by only 10 days from November 11th, when we would celebrate the end of the First World War. All together, and along with the dark cold weather—I cannot remember a single All Saints Day of my childhood which was not grey and rainy—they plotted to make the month super-gloomy. All Saints Day had become the Day of the Dead. It meant a trip to the cemetery and long moments spent taking care of graves of unknown and by definition dead relatives. Veterans Day was basically the same, except that the mourning was national. It seemed that France instead of celebrating the end of the war, was rather mourning the millions of deaths

“All Saints Day had become the Day of the Dead. It meant a trip to the cemetery and long moments spent taking care of graves of unknown and by definition dead relatives.”

it provoked. In both circumstances the local church was playing the most lugubrious type of bells. Plus, as it was France, and both All Saints and Veterans Day were days off, TV personnel also had a day off. If it happened on a Sunday or a Thursday, the celebration of the “holidays” included the suppression of our favorite TV programs.

Not all vacations are equal

“Holidays!” the magical word for children had some echo in us on the last Saturday morning of school before All Saints vacation, as we were rushing out of the neat orange brick building that served as our local temple of primary education. One thing for sure, we would not return for a whole week of freedom. This perspective was certainly troubled by too much homework which inevitably included 20 operations (from addition to decimal divisions depending on our age and level) and a heap of impossible French words to learn in order to prepare for the so terribly feared Monday Dictation. Still, liberty was to be considered. Truth is, there was not much more in my foresight. I firmly believe that all holidays should be created equal. All Saints vacation was a proof to the contrary. What could a kid do in November in these late 60’s early 70’s? In the cold of the fall, we could hardly play outside. Everything had to happen inside.

TV escape

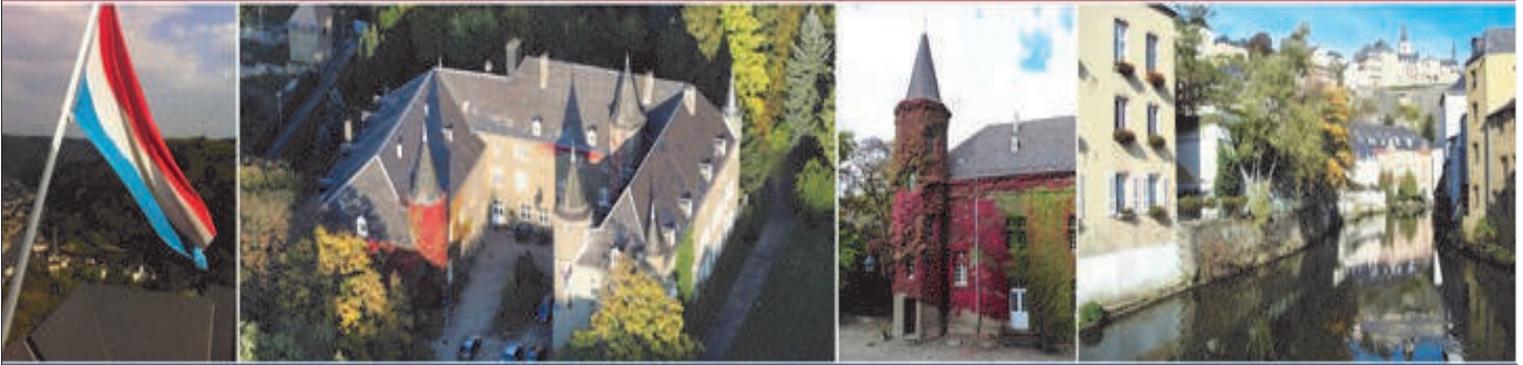
At home, there were books and TV. Books were a socially acceptable way of filling what would have been a trail of boredom otherwise, except of course for the most interesting ones, that is, comic books. My main problem was, however, that it was understood that I was “reading too fast.” I was often done with my books too early in the week. TV was a socially less acceptable alternative. Rumors of brain tumors were preventing good parents from letting their children watch what we called the “strange window.” My mother took the protection of my brain seriously. It was not too necessary, because TV hardly existed back then. There was only one channel to our black

it provoked. In both circumstances the local church was playing the most lugubrious type of bells. Plus, as it was France, and both All Saints and Veterans Day were days off, TV personnel also had a day off. If it happened on a Sunday or a Thursday, the celebration of the “holidays” included the suppression of our favorite TV programs.

Fall reinvented

I count the moment I went to the U.S. as the period when fall was reinvented. The weather was the one of an Indian summer. Then leaves turn gold and red and the spectacle was grandiose. All Saints became Halloween: Halloween was fun. In November, there was Thanksgiving; I became immediately so thankful for Thanksgiving: lots of food, good friends, family atmosphere... my first Thanksgiving, in an old farm of New England, was unforgettable. My U.S. TV had dozens of channels. I loved the fall, I had grown up.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean



The Week of October 20th, 2014

As we end our sprint courses this week, we must sadly say...

Au Revoir! to our sprint course professors: Dr. Eric Goodman (and his wife Dr. Susan Morgan) and Dr. Raúl Ianes. We also must say goodbye this week to Enerel Tamir, our Mongolian program student. *Vous nous manquez!*

LUX 335 SEL concert

Monday is the MUDEC night out at the Philharmonie for the Solistes Européen, Luxembourg concert! This event is required for your LUX 335 cultural experience credit. We will meet in the foyer **Monday at 18:30.**

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 11/3 online by **Tuesday at Noon.**

ENG 204 course

You do not want to miss your first day of class! The second half sprint European Cinema course starts **Tuesday at 12:30 in Charles the Bold.**

Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert

For those lucky 21 students attending the recital of CSO cellist Brant Taylor and the CSO performance, the bus will leave from the chateau **Tuesday at 17:00.**

Happening this week in Luxembourg!

Mon - Thurs: Touch of Noir Festival in Dudelange
 Tuesday: London Grammar Concert
 Tuesday: "Recipe for Success" Women Entrepreneurs
 Wednesday: Book Blogging Class
 Wed - Thurs: The Dance Factory - Carmen Performance
 Thursday: Oscar & The Wolf Concert
 Friday: District 7 Concert
 Sunday: Lisa Stansfield Concert

Bon Voyage! We wish you wonderful and safe Toussaint travels. Before you go, make sure to submit your travel itineraries, register with the US Embassy's [STEP Program](#) for the latest travel warnings, and empty your leftovers from the student kitchen refrigerators!

MUDEC would like to express a very special thank you to... Miami Alumnus, **Mr. Georges Lentz**, and MUDEC Alumnus, **Mr. Thomas Orlando**, for their generous donation of tickets to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert at the Luxembourg Philharmonie this Tuesday.

Additionally, we would like to thank **Mr. Brant Taylor**, CSO cellist, for gracing MUDEC with a private recital prior to the concert!

Haunted Chateau for the Local Maison Relais!

Starting to feel the Halloween spirit?

Thursday from 12—18, come dressed up for Halloween and help the SFC turn the cave into a haunted house for the children of Differdange!

Earn 20 LUX 335 points by setting up, working the haunted cave, painting faces, helping paint pumpkins, or cleaning up!

Sign up online or on the Google doc from Claire Cawley, Service Chair.

SFC's \$tudy Tour Wars!

Starting this **Tuesday during lunch**, compete against the other base course classes in raising money for children's holiday gifts. The winning class will receive a study tour send off breakfast chez Dean Leterre! Find out more details online!

Looking for a non-monetary way to brighten the holidays for local children? Ask your host family if they have any used toys they'd like to donate to the Luxembourg Refugee Center.

International Week video

Help Miami University celebrate the upcoming International Week as we film a message from MUDEC. Meet in the Grand Hall after classes **Wednesday at 16:45.**

SFC movie night

Need a break from mid-term studying? Join your SFC to de-stress, eat popcorn, and watch a movie. We will start at **18:00 in Charles the Bold.** Vote on Facebook for what movies you want to be shown!

Next semester class registration

Mark your calendars! **Tuesday, October 28th**

at 8 am EST MUDEC students are scheduled to register for next semester's classes. Find more information on Bannerweb or if you have questions you can [live-chat the registrar office](#).

Joyeux anniversaire

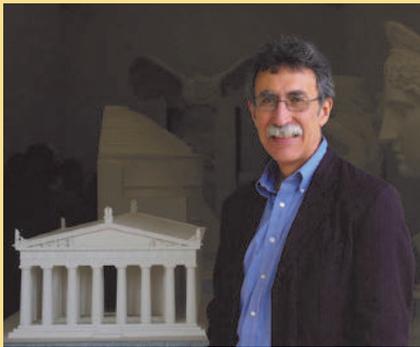
We wish a very happy birthday this week to... **Brian Daugherty**, Thursday the 23rd

Chateau Hours

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Differdingen Stolpersteinen



When I was asked to write this column, I thought about a light-hearted comment about why I always return to the Grand Duchy.

But something significant happened while you were away for Tousseint break, a major and dramatic change to our community of Differdange. You will have to look closely, but if you do you will see this dramatic change in the streetscape. It is not the size of the change, for they are simply fifteen brass squares 96 by 96 mm. It is their significance, and their presence in Differdange the recognition as a community of a wrong that cannot be corrected for it cannot be reversed.

I first came upon such major insertions into the streetscape in Cologne, incongruous shiny objects among the pavers of sidewalks in the inner city. I saw them too in Berlin, and then I began to search for them. We stumbled past one when the ARC188 class was in Frankfurt, on our first evening, on our way to our welcome dinner.

They are "Stolpersteine," stumbling stones, markers each in memory of a victim of National Socialism, markers that indicate where they last lived before being deported, the work of German artist Gunter Demnig. Since 1997 he has installed them in more than 610 communities across Europe, from Germany to Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. I hope some of

you saw the exhibition at the Aalt Stadhaus across the street from the Château titled "Judenrein." It closed at the end of last week. The exhibition documented when Differdange (Differdinge in German) was administered by the Nazi government and followed its policy to rid the community of all Jewish life. Jewish families – some already refugees from countries further east -- lost their businesses and eventually were deported to the camps in the east.

The people whose names are on those memorial stumbling stones did not survive. Those who did are not memorialized but should be honored. I was humbled to meet such during my research on the architecture of Victor Fürth and Rudolf Fränkel, two Jewish architects who eventually taught at Miami. I met a client of Fürth's who survived Auschwitz (but her husband and children did not), the son of other clients who was sent in a Kindertransport from Bohemia to the UK and survived while his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins did not, and Fürth's own niece, who survived

while her father did not, moved to then Pal-

estine and eventually became a professor at Pratt Institute in New York. I met the grandson of the owner of Fränkel's first project in Berlin, who has dedicated himself, together with his wife, to maintain the "Lichtburgforum" as a center for Jewish, German and Turkish relations.

Go discover and document Differdange's Stolpersteine. I am sure you will get points for doing so. It will at least make you a better and more caring person.

*Dr. Gerardo Brown-Manrique,
Professor of Architecture,
teaching at MUDEC Fall 2014*



The Week of November 3rd, 2014

Welcome back from All Saints Break!

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 11/10 [online](#) by **Tuesday at Noon**.

SFC movie night

Join your SFC in Charles the Bold **Wednesday at 18:00** for popcorn and a movie of your choosing!

Luxembourg's college fair

Next Thursday and Friday, you can represent Miami at Luxembourg's annual college fair. You can talk with prospective college students about what it's like to go to school in the US, your experience, your major, or your organizations. And you can earn 20 LUX 335 points and get a free meal! Sign up [online](#)!

Quidditch European workshop

Get your broomsticks ready! (Just kidding, we provide those) because **next Saturday, November 15th** MUDEC will host the second Quidditch European workshop as we welcome guests from Belgium, Germany, and France to Differdange! Talk to **Jayne Consolo** for more details!

Did you know?

Two of your classmates, **Victoria Tersigni** and **Andrew Polack**, write for Luxembourg's newspaper? You can check out a new "Wednesday Word" article each Wednesday [here](#)!

Save your waterbottle caps!

And bring them to Crici! The money raised from the recycling will go to providing guidedogs for the blind.

Happening in Luxembourg this Week

All Week: [Via PanAm CNN Photo Exhibit](#)
 Monday: [Italian Comedies at the Cinémathèque](#)
 Tuesday: [French Baroque Music Theater](#)
 Wednesday: [Thurston Moore Concert](#)
 Wednesday: [DJ at the MUDAM](#)
 Thursday: [Differdange Farmer's Market](#)
 Thursday: [Lacuna Coil Concert](#)
 Friday: [Stromae Concert](#)
 Saturday: [Luxembourg Farmer's Market](#)
 Sat & Sun: [Haupesfest](#)
 Sunday: [Haupeschaart](#)

Joyeux anniversaire

We wish a very happy birthday this week to...
Xiaoyi Peng, Wednesday the 5th
Ryan Garbrecht, Thursday the 6th

\$STUDY TOUR COIN WARS

The battle begins....

The Fight: Raise money for holiday gifts for Luxembourg children AND... a study tour send-off breakfast at Dean Leterre's apartment.

The Teams: Your study tour class.

The Strategy: Gold & Eurocoins bring you in the lead but bronze coins will deduct from other classes' totals. Alliances allowed.

Every day matters & tomorrow the competition gets fierce!

Friday's Discovery Tour: Thermal Spa in France

Come warm up from the cold in France's thermal waters! This Friday we will visit the Amnéville Spa to relax after a busy Toussaint week of travel. Sign up [online](#) (and quickly!) to reserve one of the 18 spots available!

Be featured in the alumni newsletter!

Calling all writers and bloggers! This week the Oxford office is collecting pieces written about your MUDEC experiences to feature in the alumni newsletter! Contact Katie asap if you would like to write a piece!

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: 8:00—22:00
 Friday: 8:00—17:00
 Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

Academic Offices:
 Monday—Friday: 8:00—12:00 & 13:00—17:00



Leveraging your semester at MUDEC



Questions I often hear from students are, "how do I best highlight my semester abroad in the job search?" and "in interviews, what are the best ways to professionally discuss studying abroad?" There is no doubt that your semester at MUDEC prepares you for the challenges of the

working world and increases your viability as a globally minded candidate, but *how* you market this acquired knowledge and skill-set to future employers is important.

What are employers looking for?

According to Marie-Louise Hansson, a Swedish career advisor in her book *The Global Business Person: What is the Secret of Success?*, there are seven global skills employers find desirable in a candidate.

1. *The ability to deal with ambiguity and constant change—and love it.*
2. *The ability to be informed about the industry and where the power is located.*
3. *The ability to take moderate risks and step forward in an unfamiliar situation.*
4. *The ability to act in a diplomatic way and build lasting relations—in the real and in the virtual world.*
5. *The ability to create visions about the future and how you, and your organization, fit into the larger picture.*
6. *The ability to create strategies as well as put them into practical plans and actions.*
7. *The ability to execute leadership, regardless of position, and have respect for different nationalities, cultures, and religions."*

Did examples come to mind as you read those? I would imagine! (...developing relationships with your host families, immersion in the local community through community engagement, overcoming communication barriers, visiting international

companies, visiting countries' governmental agencies, a creative in-the-moment problem solve...) Your semester at MUDEC can build and strengthen each one of these skills. And, regardless of your major/your intention to step into the business world, education system, or community service, these global skills are a great way to start to frame how your experience will benefit your potential employer.

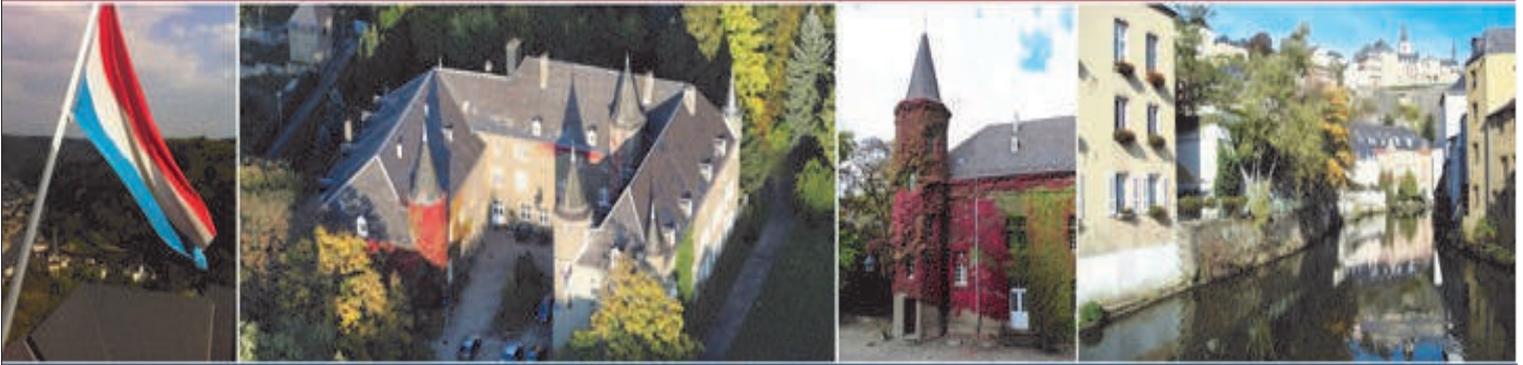
Be prepared with specific examples.

While the words "amazing" and "life-changing" are some of the first to come to mind when describing your semester abroad, when speaking in an interview or networking opportunity, you will stand out by your examples of *why*. At the beginning of the semester, Dean Leterre described the LUX 335 culture credit experiences as great jumping-off points when needing to recall a specific example of what you did and what you learned. It is up to you to build it from there. Start a list. Write down all of these examples while they are fresh in your mind; what was the situation, what did you do, what was the result? And while it is only natural, do not let the excitement of reliving the memory derail you from expressing a focused and relevant result. Write each example down exactly how you would want to say it and you will have an endless resource to express *how* you developed at MUDEC.

What can you do from home?

Stay connected! Your abroad learning experiences do not have to end upon your return to the States. Keep in touch with relationships you built in the local community. Find ways to incorporate your takeaways from this cultural immersion into your pre-Luxembourg activities and interests. Start to build your life as a reflection of your new global perspective. It is great to tell an potential employer what you did and what you learned, but it is even better to then explain how you have carried that back into your day-to-day life.

Katie Grady, Student Activities Coordinator



The Week of November 10th, 2014

Represent Miami at Luxembourg's College Fair! This Thursday and Friday

Have some free time available?
Need 20 LUX 335 points?
Want a provided lunch or dinner?
Just want to show your love and honor?

Sign up [online](#) to help man the Miami booth!

Take out your agendas... and save the date!

Thursday 11/20—Thanksgiving Dinner @ 18:00

Wednesday 12/3—SFC Ice Skating Outing

Thursday 12/10—SFC Talent Show

Friday 12/12—End of Semester Awards Banquet

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 11/17 [online](#)
by **Tuesday at Noon.**

Ministry permits

Great job getting all of your biometrics done on time! This week your permits will be ready. Be sure to pick them up in order to be allowed on your study tour travels!

Solistes Européens Luxembourg concert

Interested in attending the prestigious SEL concert next Monday at the Luxembourg Philharmonie? Sign up [online](#)
by **Thursday.**

Join the music class weekend festivities

Want to see behind the scenes of Monday's SEL Concert, there are a few spots available to join Professor Backes's music class at the SEL's rehearsals this weekend! Sign up [online](#)
by **Thursday.**

Toy donations for the refugee center

Ask your host families if they have any used toys they are would like to donate. We will collect them at the château and bring to the children at the Saint Antoine Refugee Center.

Study Tour Coin Wars

As the competition ramps up... look out for the coming "extra point" days (eurocoins worth double points, matching, etc!) Stay tuned to Facebook and your SFC emails for more details!

Bottlecap collection

Do not throw away your bottle cap lids, instead bring them to Crici to be donated to a local high school charity fundraiser!

Joyeux anniversaire!

We would like to wish a very happy birthday this week to...
Justin Bogdanski, Tuesday the 11th

Harry Potter Week at the Castle!

Every Night... join the SFC for a Harry Potter Movie Marathon and enjoy themed snacks in Charles the Bold.

Wednesday Night... take the Harry Potter Trivia Quiz to earn money towards your study tour class's Coin Wars donated by Dean Leterre.

Then culminating into the main event...

Saturday's European Quidditch Workshop!

Starting at 10:00 Saturday morning, Quidditch teams from around Europe are coming to the château to teach you how to play the real-life version of the wizarding game!

And... authentic butterbeer will served!

What's happening in Luxembourg

Monday: [Kyla La Grange Concert](#)

Tuesday: [Dance the Argentine Tango](#)

Tuesday: [Bob Mould Concert](#)

Wed & Thurs: [Comedy - Zoe Lyons](#)

Thursday: [Differdange Farmer's Market](#)

Friday: [Klaxons Concert](#)

Saturday: [Comedy Club - Nigel Williams](#)

Saturday: [SBTRKT Concert](#)

Saturday: [Rival Sons Concert](#)

Sunday: [Trail Uewersauer](#)

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**

Friday: **8:00—17:00**

Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:

Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00 &**

13:00—17:00



Thanksgiving: Exceptional, Puzzling and Meaningful



The Thanksgiving period is one of the most rooted cultural traditions of the United States. We all know the story: the Thanksgiving celebration commemorates a shared feast in 1621 between Native Americans and the pioneers who had sailed from England the year before. It was created as a national day by no less than Washington, established by Lincoln as a regular national commemoration, had its date changed by Roosevelt (FDR, not Teddy who does not appear in this story except for his annual thanksgiving proclamations) and was finally set for the date Americans now know by the Congress in 1941.

Exceptional

Let the political scientist in me emphasize the intervention of the Congress: in the history of modern politics, it is a rare case of devolution of a power long-held by the Executive Branch onto the Legislative one in time of War. Politically, Thanksgiving is exceptional. I should add that for me as an outside observer I have often found Thanksgiving to be culturally exceptional as a family dinner. Sure, to the French and European I am, the concept of "family dinner", its wonder and (let's face it) its dread, are familiar. Cooking for our people (relatives and friends) is a pastime in my native country, but I am well aware that it is not so common in modern America. It is a welcomed wonder that the most American Day along with Independence Day is a sort of cultural exception in America.

Puzzling

Thanksgiving is exceptional. It has also been puzzling to me. I will not hide the fact that for a while I was lost in translation, because in French "Thanksgiving" becomes "Action de

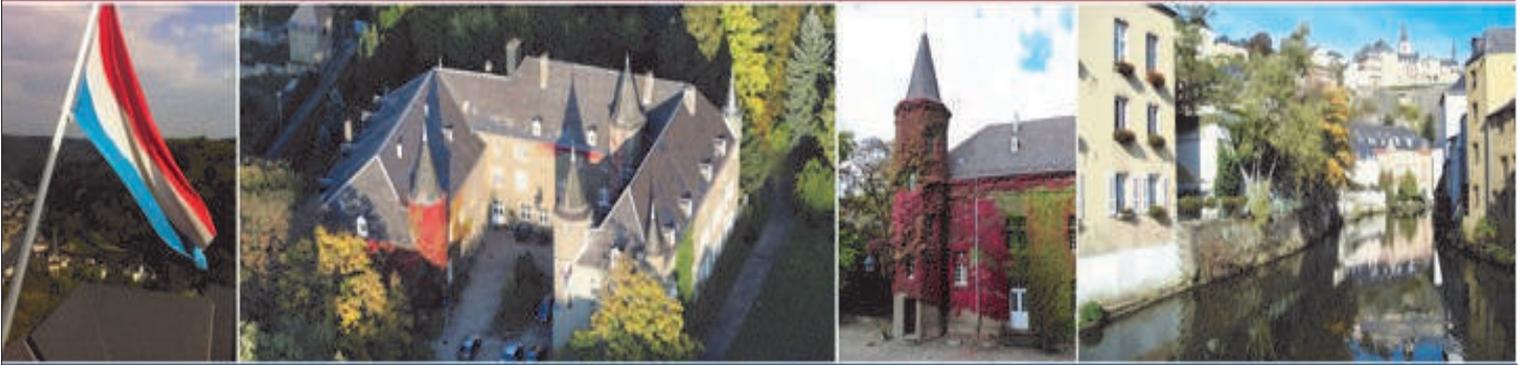
Grâce" (Action of Grace, if you wish), which evokes everything but what actually people do for Thanksgiving. By the same token, I am still confused about the Pilgrims. Why calling the people who landed in Cape Cod "Pilgrims"? How could they go on a pilgrimage to an unknown place, while the definition of a pilgrimage is to revisit a place consecrated by history? Also puzzling is the fact that the Thanksgiving meal is called a "dinner" but is often convened in the early afternoon while the eating part commences around 2 or 3PM. This for me culturally corresponds to a late lunch. Speaking of late, the timeframe has been another of moment of uncertainty: Thanksgiving, I was told, is a sequel of traditional European harvest celebrations. You can imagine my puzzlement, as I grew up in a country where harvests happen mostly in August and September.

Meaningful

But the most important about Thanksgiving is its meaningfulness. It is a meaningful event for families. I have many dear Thanksgiving memories, with friends then with my American family—people essential to the shaping of my own story. It is a meaningful celebration in the relatively short history of America. I know that critical mind requires debunking myths and that under a certain light the moment of shared rejoicing in the bounties of harvest in 1621 precludes the darker history of the colonization of the continent. Yes history and memory are fraught with ambiguity. However, ambiguity goes two ways. It is another thing we can retain from Thanksgiving: History is not only made of sweat and tears and fury and blood shedding. The fabric of humanity is also sewn with fraternity and peace across nations.

For us who are abroad, it is a very valuable ideal to celebrate on this Thanksgiving.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean



The Week of November 17th, 2014

MUDEC would like to wish everyone a Happy International Education Week!

Solistes Européens Luxembourg concert

Those in Professor Backes's MUS 189 course and all those who signed up last week, we will leave for the concert **Monday at 18:30**. Meet in the foyer!

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 12/1 [online](#) by **Tuesday at Noon**.

LUX 335 Lecture

This Wednesday at 17:00 in the Grand Hall, Dean Leterre will tell us "Why your French guest might starve in front of your fridge full of food" in the last lecture of the semester. There will also be a post-lecture reception for ten students held in Dean Leterre's apartment. Sign up to claim one of the spots [online](#)!

Casting call: SFC talent show!

Play piano? Sing? Do funny improv skits? Know how to imitate a really good bird call? We need you! Talk to a member of the SFC to sign up!

Thanksgiving Dinner—This Thursday at 18:00!

We will gather for a favorite American tradition! We will give thanks, enjoy a homemade meal, meet friends from the University of Luxembourg, screen our "Happy International Education Week" MUDEC video, and more!

Want to be on the Welcome Committee for the University of Luxembourg students? See more details [online](#)!

STOP! Are you legal?

Before leaving for study tour, you must pick up your residency permit from the Ministry and present it to Crici.

No one will be allowed on study tour without their passport and residency card in hand!

Study Tour Coin Wars—Final Week!

This week we determine our winner for the Study Tour Send-Off Breakfast at Dean Leterre's Apartment **Thursday from 8–9**.

Tuesday: Teacher Match Day! All positive coins and bills donated across Tuesday will be matched by the faculty!

Wednesday: Daily Double! All positive coins and bills donated across Wednesday will be doubled for your class!

Stay tuned to Facebook for each day's current standings!

Yearbook headshots

Time to pick your yearbook photo! Send a headshot of your choosing to Katie.

Joyeux anniversaire!

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to...

Dominic Miller,
Monday the 17th
Matt Lennon,
Sunday the 23rd
Anna Weber,
Sunday the 30th

Before leaving for study tour...

Be sure to empty all of your leftovers from the refrigerators downstairs!



Photo from this past weekend's European Quidditch Workshop where MUDEC welcomed teams from across Germany to the Château!

Happening in Luxembourg

All Week: "Oh What A Lovely War!"
 Wednesday: Women's Entrepreneurship Day
 Wednesday: Run in the Dark 5k or 10k
 Weds & Thurs: Stand Up Comedy - Zoe Lyons
 Thursday: Differdange's Farmer's Market
 Saturday: Luxembourg's Farmer's Market
 Sunday: Clean Bandit Concert

Château Hours

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**
 Friday: **8:00—17:00**
 Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
 Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00 & 13:00—17:00**



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? 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 from your time in Europe 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 learning 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 from 1991-1992, was the SAC from 1994-1997, and has been teaching intercultural communications at MUDEC since 2005. Stephanie also works at the U.S. Embassy in the Public Affairs section.



The Week of December 1st, 2014

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the week of 12/8 online by **Tuesday at Noon.**

Tell us about your study tour!

For next week's study tour edition of the Monday Newsletter, we want to hear from you! Submit your travel stories and photos to Katie. Sign up to represent your study tour online!

Calling all MUDEC talent!

Been hiding a secret skill? Do brilliant celebrity impressions? Are an award-winning interpretive dancer? Know a magic trick? Show off **next Wednesday** at the SFC Talent Show. Sign up your act online. All participants will receive a prize!

Yearbook headshots

Time to put all those selfies you have taken across the semester to good use! Send in your headshot to be used for your yearbook photo by **Friday** to either Katie, Sarah Tapogna, or Jackie Hayes. Have other photos from across the semester to share? Feel free to send those as well!

Joyeux anniversaire...

This week we wish a very happy birthday to...
Hannah Cothorn, Saturday the 6th
Leah Gray, Saturday the 6th

Happening this week in Luxembourg

All Week: Luxembourg Christmas Market

All Week: Circus!

Monday: Mighty Oaks Concert

Wednesday: J Mascis Concert

Thursday: Jungle Concert

Saturday: Alex McKown Concert

Saturday: Christmas Concert

Sunday: Sunday Shop Openings until 6pm!

Welcome back from your study tours and travel breaks!

SFC Ice Skating Night!

Join the SFC for a winter evening ice skating at the Luxembourg City ice rink! Entrance and skate rentals will be provided.
Wednesday at 4 pm.

LUX 335 credit

The deadline for all LUX 335 submissions was this past weekend. Be sure you filled out the final questionnaire as well!

Friday's Discovery Tour: Metz Christmas Market Crawl

Come explore Metz, France as we "crawl" through the town's six different Christmas markets!

Sign up online by **Thursday!**

Thank you!

to all of our generous host families who brought in new and used toys for a holiday donation to the refugee center!

And to all of those who donated in the Study Tour Coin Wars to raise money for Luxembourg children's holiday presents!

Château Hours

Mon—Thurs: **8:00—22:00**
 Fri: **8:00—17:00**
 Sat & Sun: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
 Mon—Fri:
8:00—12:00
13:00—17:00

Save the Date!

Fri, Dec. 12th
 End of Semester Awards Banquet



Méindes Blaat "Monday Newsletter" – Fall 2014 n°12

December 8th, 2014

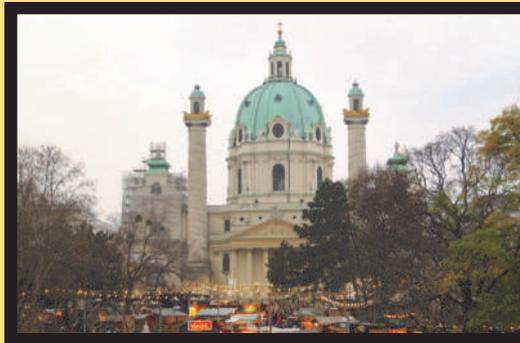
Austria ARC 251: Living in Modern Europe



On our study tour in Austria we were able to observe different architecture in Vienna. Going with the theme of modern architecture, we were shown different classes of housing including affordable housing, middle class housing, and upper class housing. It was very interesting to see how the different types of housing were built and how they were spaced throughout the city. We had a great group of people on our tour and it was very fun to be able to get close with new people on the trip. During our free

time we were able to go shopping in the city center and visit different museums. It was also fascinating to learn about the changes Vienna has gone through during the time of World War II through today. This tour was especially fun for me because I had a former nanny that lives in Vienna so I was given the chance to see her while we were there. I really enjoyed the city, the people we were with, and learning about the different aspects of architecture that have to do with Vienna's modern life. Another successful study tour and another great opportunity to bond with Professor Brown and our architecture class!

Macy Anderson, MUDEC Student in ARC 251 Fall 2014



The overall focus of our study tour was to explore the housing establishments that were constructed in Vienna as part of their social housing projects. One of these was the Karlmarkshoff, which in itself, was massive and couldn't be compared to anything in the States in the terms of social housing. We also got to learn more about the Jewish population of Vienna and how even after World War II, they were still persecuted by the general public.

Vienna as a city was an amazing destination. The city was very welcoming and easy to travel around via the subway system. One of the main areas we used as a launching off point was in the city center: Stehpensplatz. This was also the main shopping area in Vienna, having shops such as Louis Vuitton, Tiffany's, and other high-end retailers;

what made this area even better though were the Christmas markets that were set up when we arrived. They had literally everything from ornaments, food, and other gifts for this holiday season. Stehpensplatz also had a large cathedral that we went in on one of our first days there.

The highlight of the trip was going to the top of Schönbrunn Palace and seeing a great panoramic view of Vienna. In addition to this, the markets outside the palace had amazing items as well as delicious food. This included Nutella covered nuts, loaded potatoes, and sausage. For drinks they offered the glüwein that was so popular in Vienna, along with different types of punches in many of the stands. In addition to all of the markets, the palace lit up at night along with a giant Christmas tree.

*Jonathan Schwegman,
MUDEC Student in ARC 251 Fall 2014*

Poland

HST 270: The Rise & Fall of Hitler



The first time I mentioned to any MUDEC alumni about wanting to study abroad in Luxembourg their first piece of advice was to try and take History 270 “The Rise and Fall of Hitler.” Lucky enough to get into the class, I was intrigued by the subject and by the fact that we were travelling to Poland. Poland itself may not have been as beautiful as some of the other study tours but the country, especially Krakow, is full of history. The citizens of Krakow and the surrounding villages nowadays are still constantly integrated into the terrible events that the

German invasion caused; from the extermination camps of Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Wartime Museum at Schindler’s Factory, or the Jewish Ghetto in the Krakow city center, there are constant reminders of what the Nazi Germans did to both the Jewish population as well as the Polish citizens of the time. George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The Polish created a memorial at the square from which the ghetto was liquidated where 33 chairs, each representing 1,000 victims, now stand in memory of the Jewish people who were sent from Krakow to the extermination camps. While the Polish commemorate those lost in World War II in a way that will hopefully help prevent any other genocide like the Holocaust, that is not all that Krakow is remembered for. From the Black Madonna in the Jasna Góra Monastery of Częstochowa, the crypt and bell tower of Wawel Castle, the Wieliczka Salt Mine, to Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in the Western world, Krakow has so much to offer culturally and historically. Just as my predecessors told me, I would definitely recommend taking this class if only to visit historical Krakow.

Micayla Spiros, MUDEC Student in HST 270 Fall 2014



Germany

MUS 189: Great Ideas in Western Music



The music study tour to Eisenach, Erfurt, Weimar, Halle, Leipzig and Dresden Germany was a fun experience to visit the some of the German cities that had famous composers living there. We started the tour in Eisenach, which is the city where J.S. Bach was born. While there, we toured the church where he was baptized. We also got to tour his house, which was a cool experience to see how he lived. We then went to Erfurt, while there we toured the city where they had an important trading system that was on a bridge. Because it was on a bridge all the town’s people would have to walk through it tempting them to buy items. We then

went to Weimar, where Bach and Franz Liszt lived. While in Weimar we toured the city and had authentic Thüringer Bratwurst, which was amazing! After Weimar we headed to Leipzig where we toured the church where Bach performed for most of his life. We also had a guided tour of the city that showed us where other famous composers lived (Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Grieg). We then headed to Halle where George Handel lived. While touring his house we got to have a private concert. At the concert we got to hear some of the music he would have played. After we visited his house we got to tour a museum that had historical instruments. Our guild also played some of them so we could hear how they sounded. We ended our study tour in Dresden, where we got to see the Nutcracker, which was an amazing experience. The show was amazing and I am so glad I had the opportunity to see a ballet in a German opera house!

Jake Farthing, MUDEC Student in MUS 189 Fall 2014

Switzerland & Italy

PHL 310: Friedrich Nietzsche & the Project of Self-Knowledge



Our study tour's goal was to travel where Nietzsche had been in Switzerland and Italy, but we did much more than this. We started in Basel, Switzerland by walking a path he had been known to take, visiting one of his homes, and seeing his favorite places to sit and think. On our way to Sils-Maria, Switzerland, we stopped in one of Europe's smallest countries, Liechtenstein. Once in Sils-Maria, we walked one of Nietzsche's favorite paths in search of a rock that inspired one of his works. Though we couldn't find the rock in the snow, we got spectacular views and the chance to go into his home. After a terrifying trip down the Swiss Alps and a 12 point turn onto our hotel's street, our bus made it into Torino, Italy. Once in Torino, we embarked on a scavenger hunt to see Nietzsche's apartment, a cafe he frequented, and a path he walked.

*Lily Zuccaro,
MUDEC Student in PHL 310 Fall 2014*



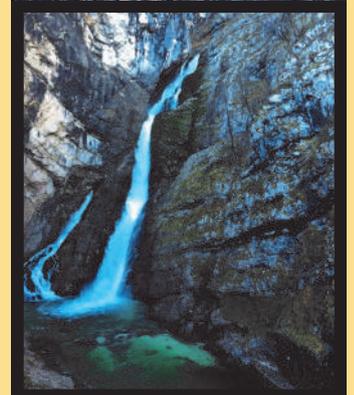
Slovenia

SOC 337: European Cultures



Our study tour was awesome and could be argued to be the best travel of my trip. We were able to perform a lot of outdoor activities which we thoroughly enjoyed. To start, we saw the Skocjan Caves and the Bled Castle. The caves were an experience unlike anything else I've had the opportunity to experience this semester; they were extremely intricately formed and beautiful in a different way. We also saw the Savica falls which gave us a breathtaking view of the Slovenian alps. This was my favorite part of the study tour as it was a reward of a 30 minute uphill hike. We also learned about the country of Slovenia as it has been an independent country for only 20 years & part of the EU for only 10 years. Professor Briot and Morena did a fantastic job organizing it all. We ended our study tour with a Slovenian Folklore dinner where we all were able to enjoy a good pork meal while participating in Folklore dances in between courses. None of us had thought we would find ourselves in Slovenia, but it ended up being one of my favorite places in Europe and led to an unforgettable week!

Kyle Allen, MUDEC Student in SOC 337 Fall 2014





The Week of December 8th, 2014

Friday Awards Banquet

As we close out a successful semester let us celebrate! Friday afternoon buses will leave the chateau at **11:00** to the Brauerei—Big Beer Company in Clausen for our semester's awards banquet!

Dress in your finest to dine on traditional Luxembourgish cuisine, recognize achievements across the semester, announce your voted superlatives, and more!

Afterwards you are welcome to stay in the city or we will have a bus returning to the chateau. If you would like to return to Differdange, please let us know so that we have a headcount for the bus!

Menu options

Submit vegetarian meal choices for the final week of lunches **online** by **Tuesday at Noon**.

T-Shirt pick up!

They are ready! Starting **Tuesday afternoon** you can pick up your chic semester t-shirt in Katie's office.

Cheese tasting

If you signed up with Professor Briot to taste the different fromages of Europe, it will be held this **Wednesday at 15:00**.

Last call for headshots!

If you are among the last few who have not yet sent in your photo for the yearbook, your very last chance to prevent the use of your passport photo is this week! Send them to either **Jackie Hayes, Sarah Tapogna, or Katie**.

Semester photo

Get your smiles ready, **next Monday at 10:00** we will take our class semester photo! A very special thank you to our photographer **Claude Piscitelli**.

Departure details

Sadly with departure coming up next Wednesday evening, there are many questions to answer. Look out this week for an email detailing the departure process, the confirmed group bus list, and all things you need to know for your return to the US.

Donations

As you begin to pack your bags, if you have extra items that you do not want to take home, you can donate them! Look out for donation boxes to be placed around the cave for all of your old clothes, travel items, and miscellaneous goods!

Joyeux anniversaire

This week we wish a very happy birthday to...

Liesel Pflieger,
Thursday the 11th

Luxembourg Winterlights

The Christmas markets of Luxembourg are open as well as the ice skating rink in Place Guillaume II. Stop by the city for traditional holiday

treats, holiday lights and decorations, the ferris wheel, and stands with great souvenirs!

Join the Lux Club!

Want to continue MUDEC life when you return to Oxford? You can join the Lux Club! Joining let's you stay in touch with each other, meet other alums, and stay connected to Luxembourg. The position for next semester's Social Secretary is available as well. If you want more information, email the co-president, **Evan McCoy!**

Faculty v. Student Challenge!

It seems as though all of our talented MUDECers are also quite modest! So the SFC has transformed the talent show into a faculty v. student version of "Family Feud."

Meet **Wednesday at 16:30** in the Grand Hall!

Chateau Hours

Open for Finals Weekend!

Monday—Thursday: **8:00—22:00**

Friday: **8:00—17:00**

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00—17:00

Academic Offices:

Monday—Friday: **8:00—12:00**

& 13:00—17:00



As we say goodbye...



We have reached the end of the semester. It is time for students to go home. What will they bring back from their stay in Luxembourg? Many great stories, many experiences, many durable friendships. Let me add to this baggage of life a reflection on something that is very often said about studying at MUDEC: that it is an experience of personal growth.

Trusting oneself

Studying abroad is not unlike going to College as a freshman. It is an experience of being away for the first time from one's familiar environment—one's family, one's friends, one's home—and to have to adapt. Adaptation first consists in behaving appropriately in a new context. Any environment is defined by rules of organization which define how people relate both to the world and to others. "At home" these rules have long been learned. For most of them, they seem natural. "Away" we are confronted to the fact that nothing is really "natural". We have to acquaint ourselves with new behaviors (take for instance the case of a foreigner having to drive automatic cars in the U.S.) and, more disturbingly, with new ways of doing even the most familiar things (like purchasing food at a supermarket where products are not the same). As a consequence, being abroad is a lesson of autonomy: in many situations we are on our own, without the support system of our old reflexes. We have to make our minds and hope not to make blatant gaffes.

"I have myself never felt more deeply how humane the world can be than when I was abroad and depended on people I was not meant to meet."

Trusting others

Orientation before leaving and onsite integration help with adapting to a new environment abroad. They still do not cover every situation even for the most attentive participant. Abroad is defined by the fact that there will always be something missing in our understanding of our context. When this happens, we have to rely on the good will of others to help supply missing information. Now, the most able of the others are usually the locals. Part of our education relies on being wisely cautious with strangers. Being abroad changes that radically, because

we are the stranger. There is no solution but to connect with others and we usually are gratefully surprised how kind they are to the strangers we are. I have myself never felt more deeply how humane the world can be than when I was abroad and depended on people I was not meant to meet. It does not mean forgoing prudence, but rather coping with a more complex sense of prudence and trust.

Trusting one's abilities

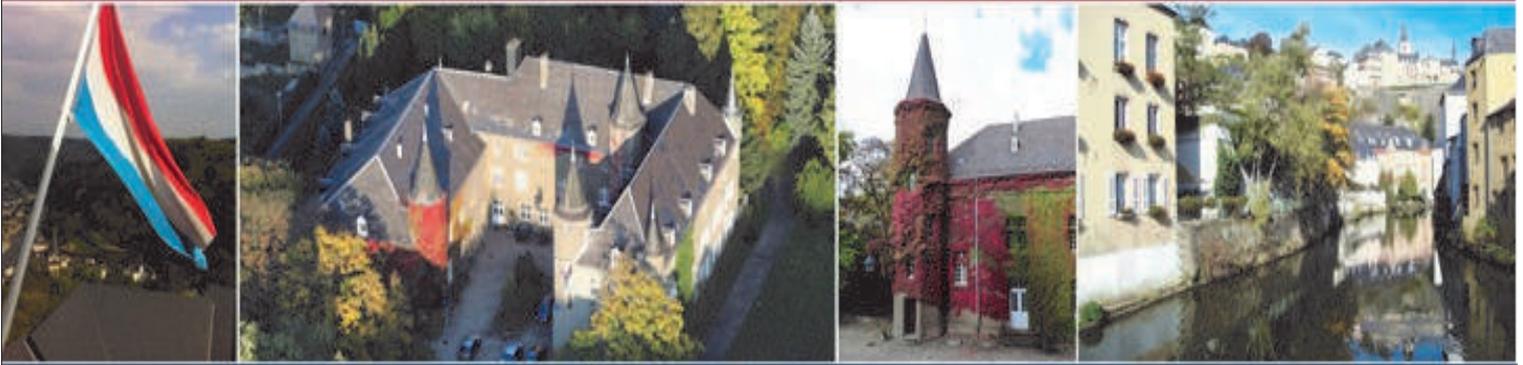
Trusting one's intellectual abilities is the third important experience. Studying abroad is about an academic experience in different settings. A program like MUDEC is organized to reduce the distance. It avoids the true challenge of an exchange student (which means in many countries harsh grading, no support system and having to deal with a different language). Still, there is a residual difference. As a Dean of MUDEC, I have rarely been confronted to students who were not able to cope with this minimum difference in the academic experience. In the rare circumstances when it happened, I felt pained that an important part of the experience had been missed.

Moral growth

Ultimately, a successful study abroad experience is synonymous to moral growth. The most sagacious remark I have ever read about it was written by an alumna of the Center as she reflected about her time in Luxembourg. She emphasized her increased respect for Miami international students after she came back to the U.S. Not only did she have an acute sense of their challenges, since she had had to adapt herself while she was abroad. She was also aware that international students have to face successfully the supplementary challenge of working in a completely different language. Their entire academic career was based on their ability to perform—and not only to live—in a completely foreign universe, something which is not required from MUDEC students. This kind of respect for others is exactly what defines being a better person.

Is it not what we all want to be?

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean



The Week of December 15th, 2014

Semester photo

A huge thank you to [Claude Piscitelli](#) for offering his time and professional photographer skills to MUDEC semester after semester!

Yearbooks

Your semester yearbooks will be ready for pick-up on **Wednesday**.

Student activities survey

Help MUDEC improve for next semester! Tell us what you loved, future activity ideas, and any suggestions for future semesters [online!](#)

Congratulations to the MUDEC Award Winners!

The Ruth & Leland Dutton Award: Lily Zuccaro

The Castellini-Hecht Award: Mickey Whitford

The Maria Bach Dunn Academic Award:

Victoria Tersigni & Charlie Urbancic

The MUDEC Faculty & Staff Academic Award:

Bergan Koch & Philip Gibert

Dean's Honorary Commendations:

Kyle Allen, Henry Andrews, Sam Baldwin, Hannah Cothorn, Jayne Consolo, Kelly Douglass, Maggie Durrin, Nick Haben, Aubrey Hale, Jillian Hassel, Jacklyn Hayes, Bogdan Ilinescu, Griffin Reyelts, Christina Romine, Katlyn Seballos, Andrew Tanner, & Zach Tolles.

Wednesday Logistics...

Luggage Drop Off: Students and host families are welcome to drop off luggage to the Château **Tuesday until 22:00 and Wednesday between 8:00—17:00**. After that, the Château will close.

Group Bus: Will depart **Wednesday at Midnight** from the Château, which will reopen at 23:00 for luggage retrieval! The group bus will arrive at the Brussels Airport early enough for breakfast and to check in 3-hours to departure. Read Katie's email to verify that you are on the bus list!

As you pack...

Donation Boxes: Anything that you are not taking home in your suitcase (especially school supplies) you can donate in the boxes at the bottom of the Cave stairs.

Books for Future Students: You can leave them in a bag with both your and the student's name in Katie's office.

Weigh your Luggage: You are also welcome to use the scale in Katie's office to weigh your suitcases!

Monday Newsletter—winter break

Publication of the Monday Newsletter will take a couple weeks break for the holidays and return with the arrival of our Winter Term programs!

Community engagement pizza party!

To celebrate the end of a successful semester of students volunteering within our community, we invite all community engagement participants and community partners to the Château **Tuesday at 17:30** for pizza and celebration!

Join the Lux Club

Want a way to stay connected to MUDEC when you return to Oxford? Join the "Lux Club" MUDEC's alumni social club. The position of "Social Secretary" for next year is available as well! Email Co-President [Evan McCoy](#) to join.

Mail pickup

Before you leave be sure to double check the student mailbox in Katie's office to make sure you have picked up all of your mail!

Thank you & happy holidays!

We thank you for a wonderful semester and wish all of our MUDEC students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the center a very happy holidays! We also wish a happy birthday to Morena Luisi next Tuesday!

Château Hours

Monday—Tuesday:	8:00—22:00
Wednesday:	8:00—17:00
	23:00—Departure
Thursday—Friday:	8:00—17:00
Saturday & Sunday:	CLOSED