

# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

11 JANUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg... BLOG!

Make sure you check out the blog on a regular basis for the Monday Morning, information on local grocery stores, fitness centers, taxis and everything else you'd need to live in Luxembourg.

### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? Liquid, a club in the Grund has Jazz night every Tuesday, and Blues night every Thursday!

### MUDEC Events

#### HOST FAMILY RECEPTION

Invite your host family to a snazzy little reception with drinks and hors d'oeuvres next **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**! This is a great way to kick off this new semester with your new Luxembourgish 'family'!

#### PROCTOR INTERVIEWS

Have you applied to be a library, cave or kitchen proctor? Interviews with Crici and Laurent will be **next Tuesday and Wednesday**! Check your inbox for an email will all the details.

#### STUDENT FACULTY COUNCIL!



Interested in making this semester unforgettable? Think about running for the Student Faculty Council! The positions are Co-Chairperson, Community Outreach, Treasurer/Secretary, and two

Activity Coordinators. Email Kelley to nominate yourself. One minute speeches and voting will take place during lunch on **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**.

#### CACTUS FIELD TRIP!

Interested in checking out Luxembourg's Wal-Mart? On Tuesday afternoon we will be taking the 17:25

bus to Cactus. This is a great place to find hair dryers, food, locks, and anything else your heart may desire!

#### TOWN HALL REGISTRATION

A little head's up: to become street legal here in Luxembourg, you will have to register with your town hall by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** or you will lose internet privileges!

#### PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

On Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our first FREE CONCERT opportunity at Luxembourg's world class Philharmonic concert hall. Interested in hearing some Mozart and Vivaldi? Sign up outside Kelley's office!

#### DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOURS

The Discovery Weekend Tour fun continues! Interested in skiing? Sign up for the Ski trip on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>! Stay tuned for detail...



#### WINTER WARNING!

\*If you are taking class in the Villa, be extremely careful on the steps! They are very very slippery!

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **Jon Seryak** (Jan 11), **Michael LaScola** (Jan 13), **Katherine Kiyosaki** (Jan 14), **Jacob Solomon** (Jan 15), and **Jordan Winey** (Jan 15)!



#### MUDEC Calendar

Monday, Jan. 11:

Tuesday, Jan. 12:

Wednesday, Jan. 13: Host Family Reception at 19:00

Thursday, Jan. 14:

Friday, Jan. 15: Last day for Town Hall registration!

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

**Attendance: 1 you're bad. 3 you're out.**

Here we are, at the beginning of a new semester, trying to figure out what our (grand and bright) future will be about for the next months to come. We already know that it will be a long thrill. That is already something is not it? But in our Luxembourg's house there are many thrills (this religious allusion is a homage paid to the famous Saturday BUS 3 that attended the beautiful Vesper Mass at the world famous abbey of Clervaux). We shall see which one will be ours. Every semester is a brand new opportunity.

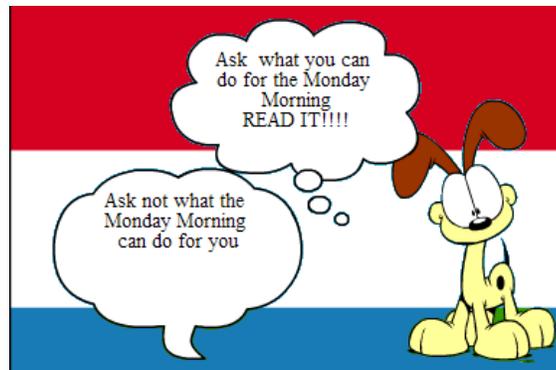
Yet, not everything is new. There are well established traditions, and the *Monday Morning* is one of the most respected ones at the John E. Dolibois European Center. Every Monday (all right, every week, preferably at the beginning of the aforesaid week) it provides students and faculty with info on what is hot in the city, as well as with the words of wisdom of the Dean (which you are currently reading). Along with Kelley's blog, "<http://mudecactivities.wordpress.com>" it is a primary source of information.

Beyond the tradition, and its intrinsic interest, *The Monday Morning* also has a legal existence in Miami University's regulations. These are to be found precisely in the *Student Handbook*, Chapter 1.9.B.2 (edition 2009-2010). It is described as the "weekly student information guide". One of the purposes of the existence of *The Monday Morning* is also to explain in "detail" the MUDEC attendance policy "at the beginning of each semester in a general statement".

With that, I feel compelled to give you the necessary details and the general statement. There are pretty

simple. Students should attend all their classes (faculty also). Other than that, the good old American rule of the "three strikes (or more precisely 180 minutes) and you're out" applies. It is actually less than three strikes since "absences may not exceed the total number of credit hours of the course in question".

As for what it means to be "out" in this case, it is nothing else but being dropped from the class and possibly suspended from the program if this causes you to drop below the 12 credits that are admissible in the program. Appeals can be made to the Committee of Advisers.



That does not mean that not attending up to 3 classes (in a 3 credits class) is fine: at any rate, absences are bad for the GPA because they limit the necessary exposure to class material and class discussions, and disorganize the rhythm of learning. They harm the GPA

in a more direct fashion: one may be marked down from the first absence on, according to rules stated in each individual syllabus. The 3 hours rule simply means that within this margin, one is not forced out of a class and of the program.

All absences must be excused, though excuses do not imply that one will not be marked down. This being said, individual cases are always taken into account.

But to be true, this (mandatory) reminder should not be taken for the most important. The most important is to enjoy the whole program, classes as much as travels, Differdange as well as Europe, leisurely conversations in the Château as well as working (silently) in the library. Have fun!

# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

18 JANUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...



#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free?

**Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!**

Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster**, beginning at 11:30!

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

C-c-check out the blog each with for not only the Monday Morning, but exciting tid-bits about Luxembourg and our lovely MUDEC family!

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

### MUDEC Events

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY!

Get excited! This week, for our Wednesday evening Orientation Activity, we will be watching 'Shadow of a Vampire,' a movie filmed in Luxembourg, starring Jon Malkovich! **Festivities begin at 17:00 in the dining hall.**



#### LOST AND FOUND!

Has your phone walked off again? Check with Joseph, guardian of all things lost, to see if he has found your missing item! You'll find him in the office with the glass wall across from the front door.

#### DOCTOR DOCTOR!

A reminder that the deadline to get your doctor's appointment and x-rays for the visa process is **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**! No signed forms? No internet!

#### PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

Be sure to give **Professor Backes** a 'merci' for working with the **Soloists European, Luxembourg** to give us free tickets to an incredible concert, **Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>**!

#### DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR PREVIEW:

On **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be exploring France's Champagne country! Keep checking the blog for details and when to start signing up!



#### CALLING ALL SKI BUNNIES

Still interested in some European skiing, but bummed you missed out on this weekend's trip? Weather depending (an excuse to be excited about cold weather!) we will have another ski trip **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**! Stay tuned for details....

#### TRAVEL TIP

Make sure you are always attentive and conscious of things going on around you, when traveling! Pick-pockets and other mean folk are something to be aware of!

### MUDEC Calendar

**Monday, Jan. 18:**

**Tuesday, Jan. 19:**

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:**

- 'Shadow of a Vampire' at 17:00

**Thursday, Jan. 21:**

**Friday, Jan. 22:**

- Chateau closes at 17:00

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Do not catch the flu!

With a rich first week our program is sure on the right track. First of all congratulations to Kelly Bennett, Matt Gassner, Margaret Matavich, Emmalyn Ross and Jon Seryak on their election to the Students-Faculty council! I look forward to working with them and to helping prepare the weekly Dolibois Center's thrills.

To the congratulations, I want to add thanks. I am grateful to Tom Miller, a Miami and Dolibois Center alumnus, who visited last week in order to set up an exciting project: filming classes in order to prepare a series of DVDs featuring the unique learning experience that the Dolibois Center offers. Tim Miller is donating to the Center his time, his talent, and the electronic material that is necessary to this project. My thanks also go to the students who accepted to become our local cameramen—another unexpected learning outcome it seems! Last but not least, the whole project, once completed, will be followed by the "University advancement" unit at Miami, which supported the project with no less enthusiasm than Tim Miller himself.

As it often goes in a life, congratulations and thankfulness are to be followed with recommendations. As you know, the flu has been tougher this year than in the previous ones and though the epidemic seems to slow down (some think it is only a remission before another burst) some populations are still at risk. Among these, groups of young people and travelers are particularly exposed. Guess what? We are right in the middle of the target.

For this reason, it is important to remember that flu symptoms have to be taken seriously.

A complete set of recommendations is available on Miami University's website:

<http://www.units.muohio.edu/saf/shs/>

You also may have noticed in the Château different posters about the right steps to take if you are suffering from flu-like symptoms. You probably know them, but just in case, I think I can use this Dean's letter as a simple reminder.

Symptoms include (but are not limited to) a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius), or simply signs of a fever (having chills, feeling very warm, having a flushed appearance, or sweating), cough or sore throat and—possibly—runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.

Should you suffer from those symptoms, it is important to tell your host family that you are not feeling well and to contact the Center immediately (the local number is 58-22-22-1 or 58-22-22-911 when the center is closed) as well as to stay home in your room and avoid contact with the family members, friends, etc.

You should then schedule your local medical practitioner for a visit at home. While unusual in the US, home visits are still practiced by European doctors, and are part of the recommendations of the

Luxembourg government as an important precaution to avoid the virus spreading. At any rate, avoid visiting the doctor's office when other patients are attending.

It is particularly important to contact your medical practitioner in the greatest urgency if you have pre-existing conditions or previous illnesses that have compromised your immune system.

Finally, you should have your meals brought to your room. This is why it is imperative to contact the center in order to check how to organize the delivery of your meals.

It is also possible to reduce the risks of infection by adopting simple measures of prevention such as practicing good hygiene by washing your hands frequently with soap, or covering your mouth and your nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

With these precautions in mind, hopefully, we'll stay on the right track.



# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

25 JANUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster, beginning at 11:30!**

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

C-c-check out the blog each with for not only the Monday Morning, but exciting tid-bits about Luxembourg and our lovely MUDEC family!  
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### MUDEC Events



#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY!

Master of euchre? Dominator of Pictionary? Show off your skillz at our Wednesday night activity, **game night presented by your Student Faculty Council!** The throw-down begins at **17:00 in the dining hall.**

#### ANOTHER FREE CONCERT OPPORTUNITY!

Get excited for another FREE concert presented by the **Soloists European, Luxembourg** at the Philharmonie, on **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 20:00** (the day we get back from Mini-Field Study Tours!). Sign up outside Kelley's office if you're interested!

#### DOCTOR DOCTOR!

A reminder that the deadline to get your doctor's appointment and x-rays for the visa process is **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>!** No signed forms? No internet!

#### STUDENT DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL

Looking for ways to be involved with in Chateau leadership? Think about being a student member of the **Disciplinary Board**. In addition to the faculty members sitting on the board, there will be two students and one student alternate! Email Kelley by **Friday, January 29** to nominate yourself.

#### PHOTO TUESDAY

Are you a photographer extraordinaire? Each week the SFC will choose a '**photograph of the week**' to be featured on the MUDEC blog! Submit your favorite photos of the weekend by **17:00 on Monday**, and check to see if your photograph is featured on **Tuesday!** Winning photographer gets bragging rights (and maybe a little something else...☺)



#### BASKETBALL, SOCCER, FOOTBALL...

Sign your name under sports you are interested in playing (outside Kelley's office) so you can be contacted about pick-up games throughout the semester!

#### DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR:

On **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be exploring France's Champagne country! Keep checking the blog for details and when to start signing up! There will also be another ski trip **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>!** Stay tuned for details...

#### MUDEC Calendar

Monday, Jan. 25:

Tuesday, Jan. 26:

Wednesday, Jan. 27:

- Chateau Game Night at 17:00

Thursday, Jan. 28:

Friday, Jan. 29:

- Chateau closes at 17:00
- Deadline for doctor forms

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## The Thrill To Come: you'd never thought that it could be so fun

I do not know whether the traditional round of professors' nominations to the different councils and boards of the Dolibois Center exactly fits the idea of a "thrill", but I am happy to thank and congratulate colleagues who have accepted to seat on those different bodies.

Mr. Briot, as the representative of the European faculty, and Dr. Shaffer, as the representative of Miami faculty, will seat on the disciplinary board. Dr. Shaffer would also chair the board in the (hopefully unlikely) event of its meeting. Students' nominations for the same board are still pending. Dr. Shaffer also accepted to seat on the Committee of Advisors along with Dr. Garcia.

The disciplinary board meets at the request of the Dean in case of serious violations of The Code of Student Conduct (where do you find that? In the *Student Handbook*, 2.8A.B).

As for the Committee of Advisors, it receives petitions of students as regards to "exceptions to both the semester grade point average rule and the attendance rule, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.3.E of the Undergraduate Academic Regulations" (as, in its wisdom, says *The Student Handbook* under its title 1 section 9 subsection B paragraph 2).

Closer to the vernacular concept of "thrill" is the last nomination of the semester: Mr. Beauchamp kindly volunteered to join the Students Faculty Council.

As such, he will share with the Student members and the Student activity coordinator, the heavy task of organizing our Wednesday evenings, which from 5 to 7PM, are reserved for mandatory all-MUDEC events. Last week, the movie *Shadows of a vampire* (shot in Luxembourg) filled the dining hall with a supernatural

ambiance. What's next? The council granted me the privilege to announce what is ahead of us.

This Wednesday will be dedicated to ice-breaker activities and board games. Just show at 5 at the dining hall... and who knows whom you will meet?

On February, 10 we will celebrate the Mongolian New Year, our own way of recognizing the generosity of Mr. and Mrs Vail who funded a fellowship which now allows students from Mongolia to visit the Center. This is why the flag of Mongolia is proudly hanging in our dining hall, along with those of the US, the Luxembourg and Ohio. We will be introduced to some Mongolian traditions thanks to Solongo, our student in residence.



On February 24, we will have a lecture—lecturer to be determined—and on March 3, Jessica Byington, a fellow student from Miami, will give a talk on dyslexia.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the day after (Thursday, March 4), Mr. Carlo Krieger, Ambassador of Luxembourg in China and Miami alumnus will give a lecture. This event is truly exceptional, and it is a great honor for Miami University in Luxembourg to receive such a distinguished visitor.

On March 10, the council will invite you to the magic of the Castle with a Special Harry Potter Wednesday. Pr. Dumbledore will be our special guest and will pronounce the traditional address on the evening Hogwarts banquet.

On March 17 and 24, we will meet for two other lectures, before welcoming the youth of Differdange for a post-easter egg hunt on the premises of the Château on April 14. We'll rock or jazz April 21 with music and on April 28, we'll have a last thrill our Awards Banquet.

Let's have fun

# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

1 FEBRUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!

Looking for a place to practice your touchdown dance during the big game? Das Boot will be showing the big game on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> but bring some coffee -festivities begin at midnight.

#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster, beginning at 11:30!**

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

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### MUDEC Events

#### MINI FIELD STUDY TOUR REMINDERS...

Before you peace out on Wednesday for a fun-filled study tour, please remember **to get rid of any perishable food in the kitchen** and to tidy up your space around the Chateau!

#### ANOTHER FREE CONCERT OPPORTUNITY!

Get excited for another FREE concert presented by the **Soloists European, Luxembourg** at the Philharmonie, on **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 20:00** (the day we get back from Mini-Field Study Tours!). Sign up outside Kelley's office if you're interested!

#### MONGOLIAN NEW YEAR!

On **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** we will be celebrating Mongolian New Year! In order to make

this an event to remember, we need YOUR help! **Email Kelley if you can volunteer your time to help us make delicious dumplings for the feast on Wednesday morning ☺**

#### PHOTO TUESDAY

Are you a photographer extraordinaire? Each week the SFC will choose a '**photograph of the week**' to be featured on the MUDEC blog! Submit your favorite photos of the weekend by **17:00 on Monday**, and check to see if your photograph is featured on **Tuesday!** Winning photographer gets bragging rights (and maybe a little something else...☺)

#### BASKETBALL, SOCCER, FOOTBALL...

Sign your name under sports you are interested in playing (outside Kelley's office) so you can be contacted about pick-up games throughout the semester!

#### DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR:

On **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be exploring France's Champagne country! There will also be another ski trip **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>!** Stay tuned for details...

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to Kim Carr (Feb. 2) and Meredith Cole (Feb. 3)!!

#### MUDEC Calendar

Monday, Feb. 1:

Tuesday, Feb. 2:

Wednesday, Feb. 3:

- Leave for Mini Field Study Tours!

Thursday, Feb. 4:

Friday, Feb. 5:

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Cleanliness, food and... wealth?

The maintenance of a big building such as the Château is an everyday concern for all of us: our cleaning staff, which does a marvelous job, is helped by teams of student workers. This is why, starting this week, a new tool will help us assessing the cleanliness of our building through a weekly "cleanliness index". The index is based on a series of daily assessments of the cleanliness of different rooms under the jurisdiction of our student workers. Our first index is actually very good: with a weekly average of 86%, our team of Proctors has done a great job! *Bravo!*

This index should not be considered only a reflection of the student workers' involvement and good work. It also reflects the sense of responsibility of our entire community: every one of us can (and should) help keeping our building clean by using trash cans, keeping the kitchen clean in the basement, not leaving garbage in classrooms ... It is very simple to help. We count on all of you!

One specific rule, in particular, should be observed to keep our place clean: classrooms are non-eating places - as the line goes, "no food, no drinks". The exception is when the instructor allows her or his students to have a snack or (soft) drinks during class time. By default, all classes are "non-food", and therefore *only*

*explicit permission* of the instructor grants the mundane privilege of feeding one's stomach while receiving the best nutrient for one's mind in class.

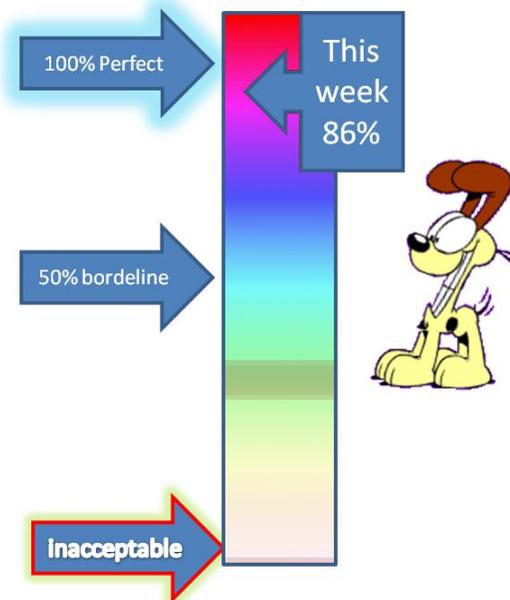
At any rate, the room must be left in a perfect state of cleanliness after *each class*. Papers belong to the trash, as well as cups, napkins etc.

Speaking of food, to those interested in European traditions, it may be worthy of note that Tuesday February 2, is the *Chandeleur*. The word comes from *chandelle* (candle in French) and corresponds to the fact that people used to light candles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

Initially a commemoration of the presentation of Jesus to the Temple, the *Chandeleur* has become a lay holiday in France, when it is customary to have a diner of crepes. This tradition is said to come from the Middle age, when the Pope distributed waffles to the crowd of pilgrims who came to Rome to celebrate

the *Chandeleur*.

Tradition also says that flipping a crepe in the pan with one hand, while holding a coin (it used to be a gold coin) in the other hand provides wealth for the year to come. Considering the rate of the Euro currency, it might be worth the try!



# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

8 FEBRUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster**, beginning at 11:30!

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

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### MUDEC Events

#### FREE CONCERT: ROUND THREE



Get excited for a third FREE concert presented by the **Soloists European, Luxembourg** at the Philharmonie, on **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 20:00**. Sign up outside Kelley's office if you're interested!

#### MONGOLIAN NEW YEAR!

This **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** we will be celebrating Mongolian New Year! In order to make this an event to remember, we need YOUR help! **Email Kelley if you can volunteer your time to help us make delicious dumplings for the feast on Wednesday morning ☺**

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY

This week we are celebrating Mongolian New Year, an important holiday that traditionally falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>. **Festivities begin at 5:00 – come hungry, and remember to bring a small token (less than 2EUR) to exchange!**

#### DISCOVERY WEEKEND TOUR:

On **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be exploring France's Champagne country! There will also be another ski trip **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**! Stay tuned for details...

#### HIKE WITH THE HOFF

Mr. Hoff, that is! Interested in tackling some incredible hiking trails in Luxembourg? Mr. Hoff – hiker extraordinaire- will be taking interested students on a hike **Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**! **Email Kelley by Friday if you are interested!**



#### BON VOYAGE!

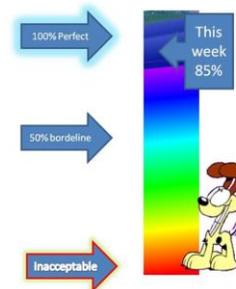
Once again, before we leave for a fun-filled carnival break, remember to **clean out the fridge of perishable foods** so we don't come back to a smelly Chateau!

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Mara Fernandez** (Feb. 8), **Kendra Shaffer** (Feb. 8), and **Taylor Banister** (Feb. 10)!!



#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



#### MUDEC Calendar

**Monday, Feb. 8:**

**Tuesday, Feb. 9:**

**Wednesday, Feb. 10:**

- Mongolian New Year!

**Thursday, Feb. 11:**

**Friday, Feb. 12: CARNIVAL BREAK!**

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Safe together

Luxembourg is one of the safest countries in the world, if not the safest. Ranking 13<sup>th</sup> safest country in the world according to the 2009 Global Peace Index, it even made it to the 1<sup>st</sup> rank in the 2008 international survey conducted by the group Mercer Human Resource Consulting. In the same surveys, the US respectively ranked 83<sup>rd</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>. Though it does not mean that crime does not exist in Luxembourg, it shows that threats on personal safety are more unlikely to occur than in the US.

To give a comparison, let us get into the ugly details: the latest release of the *Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services* reported for the year 2007 14 rapes, 6 robberies, 78 aggravated assaults, 134 burglaries, 460 larcenies, 15 MV thefts, 5 arsons only for Oxford, while the Butler county as a whole amounted to 9 murders, 217 rapes, 379 robberies, 932 aggravated assaults, 3,084 burglaries, 10,362 745 larcenies and 90 arsons for a population of 336,177. For a population of about 494,000 crime stats in Luxembourg report 331 aggravated assaults, 2,030 burglaries, 7 murders and 44 rapes in the same year.

A little calculus, with proportionate populations, shows that while the occurrence of murders is equivalent, there are 3 times fewer rapes, and nearly twice less aggravated assaults in Luxembourg than there are in the Butler County where Oxford is located.

As regards to the situation of Luxembourg compared to its neighbors, you can easily find information on the Internet in a survey conducted by Tom Michels in 2004/2005. The research, which was co-funded by the European Commission, and published under the title: "Crime and Victimization in Luxembourg: results of the European Crime and

Safety Survey" found that "compared to the 15 EU countries, Luxembourg has significantly... lower rates for 'sexual incidents'... Moreover, Luxembourg has significantly lower rates in 'bicycle theft' than its neighboring countries and the total EU-15."

Of course, one could say that while it looks good for Luxembourg, these stats might give a scary impression of the neighboring countries—especially if you have a bike. The reassuring factor though (at least reassuring for the time we are in the EU) is that *all the EU countries* rank better in terms of Global Peace Index than the US. In other terms, the EU is statistically far safer than the US.

It should not convey a false sense of absolute security though and simple safety tips should be scrupulously followed. Firstly, a vigilant attitude considerably helps avoiding being the target of unwanted solicitations and, worse, assault. If possible, avoid walking back home alone at night, and do not hesitate to call for help if you feel that your surroundings are not safe. In many cases, calling your host family is a good option. Call for the **Luxembourg police (113)** if you feel an immediate threat. The **EU unified emergency number, 112**, also works and applies to medical emergencies.

In the unfortunate hypothesis you would 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 to the police. The center will naturally help you with this. Lastly, when you travel outside of Luxembourg you should systematically 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.

Let us make the Luxembourg experience even safer than safe Luxembourg!





# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

22 FEBRUARY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### BUERGSONNDEG

Did you hear fireworks or see bonfires on Sunday night? Sunday was Buergsonndeg, a Luxembourgish holiday that 'burns away' the winter!



#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster, beginning at 11:30!**

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

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### MUDEC Events

#### YOU'VE BEEN EUCHRED

Honing your stellar euchre skillz on those long weekend train rides? Your SFC is hosting a euchre tournament this **Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** in the dining hall. Stay tuned for details...



#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY!

This Wednesday we have an exciting (and mandatory!) lecture by **Claude Meisch, the Bourgmestre (or mayor) of Differdange!** The lecture will begin promptly at **17:00 in the Dining Hall.**



#### POST LECTURE RECEPTION!

M. Manes will be hosting a reception for our guest speaker after the lecture in the Dean's apartment! **Interested in sharing a glass of wine with M. Meisch? Sign up outside Kelley's office!**

#### LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

On **Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, we have the privilege of hearing **Carlo Kriege, the Luxembourg Ambassador to China (and Miami Alum!)** give a presentation at MUDEC. **Festivities begin at 17:00, and attendance is mandatory!**



#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON!

On **Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our first afternoon excursion! Buses will leave the Chateau after classes, you'll be provided with a bag lunch, and we'll head to **Nancy, France!** After a quick tour of the city, you'll be free to head off to another destination for the weekend, or return back to Luxembourg! **Email Kelley to sign up ☺**

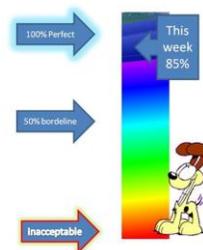
#### SKI BUNNIES?

We will be taking another ski trip (weather depending!) on **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**! Maximum capacity is **38 students**, so email me asap if you are interested!

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Kady Uchtman** (Feb. 24), and **Margaret Matavich** (Feb. 27), and Happy Belated Birthday to **Hannah Griebner** (Feb. 19)!!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## The Dolibois Center, an engaged community

Welcome back from the Carnival Break! It has been an intensive traveling time for many students (and faculty and staff) and the joy of being back is warmly supported by a noticeable change in the weather: last week the local Alzette River looked somehow like the Klondike with its snowy banks. We are back to an end of February which sometimes, when the light in the park of the Château is right, feels like the first touch of the spring.

In retrospect, many things have happened these last weeks, beyond vacation time or weather change. It has been a busy time of engagement.

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the Mongolian New Year, with a fantastic diner, and the presentation of her country by our exchange student from Mongolia, in a lecture full of emotion. Solongo's presence, thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs Vail, who sponsor a special fellowship now targeted at Asian students, is the perfect image of how an American center like ours we can be engaged in the greater world, even beyond the vast borders of Europe.



The New Year event was also the right opportunity for engaging in community activities. More than 600 dumplings were home made by our chef, Stefan, assisted by a group of students who joined for the occasion and learned to cook the Asian way.

Such an event portrays the Dolibois Center at its best: I warmly thank the student-faculty council which planned for the event and the students who turned themselves into cook apprentices for the day. We owe a lot to Kelley, our Students activity coordinator, for her masterful coordination of the whole event. I would also like to underline the amazing availability of the staff: Mary and Mena were there for us in the evening with, of course,

our chef who not only was there too, and had planned for the menu, but also accepted to have his kitchen taken over by a bunch of rookie cooks that he managed with his usual professionalism. Many thanks also to the faculty members Al Beauchamp, Guy Demuyser, Tom Garcia and Robert Thurston who kindly honored the event with their presence.

Just days before this memorable diner, classes had returned from their first Study Tours. This signature feature of our program is an irreplaceable opportunity to engage in concrete learning, by discovering "on the spot" what is learned in class at the Dolibois Center. This time, the Dolibois troop went hunting the witches with Dr. Thurston (history), deciphered urban organization and walked through old European cities with professors Jacks (architecture), and Vankrunkelsven (arts). Music added a special note to this semester ranging from jazz to Classic European music, with our two very own specialists, Dr. Garcia and professor Backes. Destinations? Germany was a hit with no less than three study tours! France, Italy, and the Netherlands were also visited.

Over the last weeks, the Dolibois community has zoomed in from Asia to Luxembourg, and we will continue narrowing the focus of our engagement this week to our more immediate surroundings. We will welcome, on our Wednesday activity, Differdange *Bourgmestre* Claude Meisch for a guest lecture about the development of Differdange, followed by a reception hosted by Assistant Dean Raymond Manes. Claude Meisch is a long time friend and supporter of the Dolibois Center at Differdange and his presence to this very special MUDEC event will be a great opportunity to know more about our city, and... its future!

Another special event will take place Saturday February, 27 with a gala dinner organized by the Diekirch Alexis Heck culinary training Institute. The gala will serve as a charity and a fund raiser, and the Dolibois Center is proud to sponsor the event. It is another way of being engaged, engaged and opened to the Luxembourgish community that has been hosting our program for over four decades now.

# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

1 MARCH 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster**, beginning at 11:30!

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? **Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events** ☺

### MUDEC Events

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY!

This **Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will be hearing an interesting and informative (and mandatory!) presentation on dyslexia by **Miami student (and current Miss Teen International) Jessica Byington**. The lecture will begin promptly at **17:00!**



#### THE THURSDAY BONUS ROUND!

This **Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, we have the privilege of hearing **Carlo Kriege, Luxembourg's Ambassador to China (and Miami Alum!)** give a presentation at MUDEC. **Festivities begin at 17:00, and attendance is mandatory!**

#### POST LECTURE RECEPTIONS!

Interested in sharing a glass of wine with these **incredible Miamians chez Dean Leterre**? Sign up with Kelley to reserve your spot for either Wednesday or Thursday!

#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON: NANCY, FRANCE!

This **Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will be exploring beautiful Nancy, France! Interested in this **FREE** afternoon excursion? Email Kelley to sign up!

#### DUST OFF YOUR WANDS....

On **Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, the SFC will be hosting **Hogwart's Day**, a day of magic, house points and, of course, an evening feast of Hagrid proportions! Stay tuned for details...



#### BOWLING? IN EUROPE?

Interested in getting involved with the **Differdange community**? On **Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will be heading to a local establishment to play 'Jeu de Quilles' or European bowling! The fun and games begin at 19:00 – email Kelley to sign up!



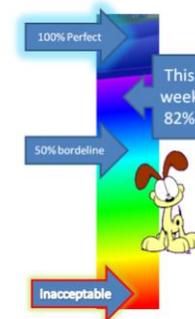
#### OUR FINAL FREE CONCERT!

Professor Backes and the Soloist European Luxembourg have done it again! We have one more opportunity to enjoy a **FREE** concert at the Philharmonie on **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 20:00!** Email Kelley if you are interested in attending.

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Annie Wang** (March 4) and **Zach Martin** (March 7)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Communicating What We Are

*Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sinn*—we want to stay what we are. I have always found this famous Luxembourgish saying significant and inspiring. It is obviously significant in the context of the history of Luxembourg, a country that has kept its identity throughout long centuries of dispossession and a geography that puts it at the crossroads of Belgium, France and Germany (all of which invaded or dominated Luxembourg at some point). It is also a life lesson for everybody: we should all know what we are, and, in the changing circumstances of existence, keep what defines us the best. It is not about resisting the change. It is about growing with the changes, not disappearing with the passing of time and change in the circumstances, but developing our identity.

This is why I find this saying personally inspiring.

I think it is a good lesson for the Dolibois Center as a whole. In our radically changing world, we want to stay what we are, not to hide from changes, but to make the most of the opportunities changes bring.



Which raises the question: what are we?

What we are is one of the oldest higher education institutions in Luxembourg—to which 41 years of existence and a community of more than 9,000 alumni over the years attach us. We are also one of the largest operations run by an American university in Europe. That is what we are as a community. And as people? I think that, without exaggeration, we are curious and opened people who chose to be here, to travel, and to experience, because we wanted to think “outside of the box”. We are also diverse in many ways. The center counts among its students and staff people carrying Chinese, French, German, Luxembourgish, Mongolian, passports. We welcome in our program students from different American universities, as well. This is an incredible asset to the Dolibois Center. I hope that in the near future we will be able to welcome European students as well. The diversity of interests is also striking

with so many students majoring in different areas following the same curriculum. What we are is not rigid; we are what a common inspiration, taking all the paths of imagination and adventure, makes us.

This is why we should not hesitate to communicate about what we are. Communicating sometimes takes very simple means: I realized when I arrived at the Dolibois Center that we lacked a direct way to communicate efficiently when we had simple but urgent information to pass on—such as canceled classes or special events. Thanks to the support of the Provost, the center now benefits from two wonderful digital screens which allow us to communicate efficiently in real time.

Communicating is not just about talking to ourselves, of course. We have to be more present in our community. A meaningful outcome of the visit of Bourgmestre Claude Meisch last week was a common acknowledgement that we wanted to stay what we are, a member of the Differdange community and that we had to build on this.

It is also why we now issue *communiqués* to the local press about our events. Watch for the Dolibois Center in the *Journal*, the *Luxembourg Wort*, the *Lux-Post* or *L'essentiel*. Work as journalists too and talk about the Center in your university if you feel like it: for Miami's students, the... *Miami student* is there to share news after all!

Sometimes it just takes presence to insure communication about what we are: this is why I am grateful to the students and the faculty for their presence when we receive guest lecturers—such as Claude Meisch last week and Jessica Byington and Ambassador Krieger on Wednesday and Thursday.

Last but not least, communication is also very necessary in emergency situations. I can say that I, like all the instructors, appreciated news from students (via SMS) who were blocked in Germany because of the storm that hit Europe last week end.

And that is also another trait of what we are: the proud followers of a long standing tradition of Midwestern civility.

# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

8 MARCH 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### FREE TUNES

Interested in hearing some blues and jazz fo' free? **Liquid**, a club in the Grund has **Jazz night every Tuesday**, and **Blues night every Thursday!** Also check out **Sunday Jazz at Abbaye de Neumunster**, beginning at 11:30!

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Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? **Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events** ☺

### MUDEC Events

#### SAY 'FROMAGE!'

**This Wednesday**, before our delicious Hogwarts feast, we will **be taking our semester picture** for the Wall of Fame in the Maisy Dumont classroom! Head to the courtyard right after your MFS class so we can take a quick photo at **17:00!**



#### DUST OFF YOUR WANDS....

This **Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, the SFC will be hosting Hogwart's Day, a day of magic, house points and, of course, a feast of Hagrid proportions! The evening festivities will begin directly after taking our semester picture!

#### OUR FINAL FREE CONCERT!

Professor Backes and the Soloist European Luxembourg have done it again! We have one more opportunity to enjoy a FREE concert at the Philharmonie on **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 20:00!** Email Kelley if you are interested in attending.



#### BOWLING? IN EUROPE?

Interested in getting involved with the Differdange community? On **Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will be heading to a local establishment to play 'Jeu de Quilles' or European bowling! **The fun and games begin at 19:00 – email Kelley to sign up!**

#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON: METZ, FRANCE!

Next **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will be spending the afternoon in Metz, France! The bus will leave after lunch at 12:45 and will return back to Luxembourg in the early evening. **Sign up with Kelley by Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot!**

#### BOFFERDING BREWERY TOUR!

Next **Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, you have the opportunity to tour Luxembourg's very own **Bofferding Brewery!** The tour caps out at 60 students, but don't worry! If you can't make this one, there will be another visit on April 22. Sign up outside Kelley's office.

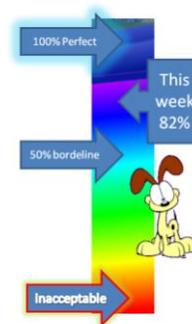
#### DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: TRIER, GERMANY

**Mark your calendars!** On **Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will be spending the afternoon in Trier, Germany.

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Alexandra Witunski** (March 8) and **Kristin Rice** (March 9)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## The Magic Realm

### Magic

After an intensive week with no less than two exceptional guest lectures, we are entering a period of Magic, or another sort of Magic, with the preparation of Wednesday Hogwarts Dinner.

I am happy to realize that I am not the only one who thinks of the most prestigious premises of the English school of Magic when I see the Château and its dining hall.

Keep posted for the details of the magical evening to come, and please, also keep your biting books safely locked before attending the banquet.

\*

### Miamians

Last week we received two generations of Miamians, with the presence of Miami student Jessica Byington who gave a presentation on dyslexia—the cause she represents as Miss Teens International—and Miami alumnus and Ambassador Carlo Krieger who introduced us to the complexity of the development of China. Both events attracted record breaking audiences, for which I would like to thank our community, the students and staff and professors, as well as the friends of the Center who came to visit us on these occasions. Among the latter, we were honored to count Miami Emeritus Professor Charles Teckman.

Professor Teckman is a former director of the European Center and a close friend of John Dolibois. It was a special moment for me to welcome again in a Luxembourg that he knows so well this dear colleague and warm supporter of the center.

This week again we will receive many guests at the Center. From Luxembourg we receive on Tuesday students of the Michel Rodange high school. They will discover through the center and with its staff and

students some aspects of the American education. From Miami, we will have Professor Timothy Krehbiel, from the Farmer School of Business and Professor Donald Pribble. Professor Pribble (who by the way was in the audience of Carlo Krieger) is the Chair of the “MUDEC Subcommittee” which is the governance body advisory to the Dean of the Dolibois Center. He is also a major contributor to the internationalization of Miami University, and is visiting Europe in order to prepare for the capstone course he organizes at the school of education. This course allows students in Education at Miami to discover European systems of education through visits and contacts.

\*

### Cross exchanges

Though the two visits are coincidental, I find it a... magical circumstance to have American colleagues preparing their students to learn about European education, at a time when Luxembourgish students come to visit us and learn about US education. In my mind it is a wonderful symbol of what we want to do at the center: we want to be a place where Luxembourg and Europe the US meet.

This was the case in another circumstance last week, when Miami University was for once not host but guest at the foundation Chomé in Luxembourg Ville where selected students were warmly received by Mr. Roland Hoff. The foundation commemorates the name of Mr and Mrs Chomé who generously dedicated their fortune to help needy elders in Luxembourg and also support education in different places.

\*

It is often said that education is a key-factor. For us, it is certainly the key to the magical realm that the Grand Duchy is.



# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

15 MARCH 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...



#### TIME-CHANGE REMINDER!

The United States 'sprung forward' last weekend, meaning there is only a **5 hour difference** between lovely **Luxembourg and Oxford, Ohio**. The time won't change in Europe until early **Sunday morning** on

March 28<sup>th</sup>!

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### MUDEC Events



#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday evening free! Enjoy Saint Patrick's Day ☺ Thanks again for a wonderful Thursday lecture bonus round on March 4<sup>th</sup>!

#### BOWLING? IN EUROPE?

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#### DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: TRIER, GERMANY

Next **Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will be spending the afternoon in Trier, Germany. Email Kelley to sign up!



#### CLASS REGISTRATION HEAD'S UP

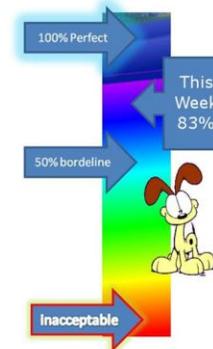
A perk of studying in Luxembourg? Early registration! Bannerweb will be open **for MUDECers on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2pm Europe time (8am EST)**. This means you'll be registering for fall classes during Spring Break, so plan accordingly!



#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Bridget Mullins** (March 16), **Sarah Bradford** (March 20), and **Jordan Rosenfield** (March 20)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

\*

## The Second half

### Our best half

In German, one says “my best half” to say “my wife”. As for us, now that we are done with the season of midterms, and the Mini Study Courses are over, as well as sprint courses, we can safely assume that we are engaged with the second half of this semester. Schedules are getting reorganized, with more flexible time as we march towards a second round of Study tours.

There is a measure of sadness to it also when we think that today is the day when Solongo, who came to visit us from Mongolia, is leaving. We wish her all the best. The presence of students from Mongolia is the vivid testimony of how our center serves the purpose of being at the crossroads of cultures and of enlarging our vision of the world, extending it far beyond the borders of Europe.

Will the period that starts this week be our “best half”? The springy feel about the weather lets us at least hope that it will be the warmest one.

\*

### On the agenda

We ended the previous period in the grandiose fashion of the Hogwarts dinner. Keeping at that level will require all the resources of our legendary collective creativity. To better prepare for it, we will have this week a little pause in our Wednesday activities: the slot when everything happens, the famous Wed 5-7 is left free this week and will be dedicated to your own free discoveries. It does not mean that we have nothing on the menu for you. Just pick your choice from the highest possible level of perfection in music at the Philharmonie tonight with Olivier Latry, the popular “jeux de quilles” and visits to Nancy and Bofferding. The rest is up to you!

### Keeping in touch

Not everyone is a tough lonely rider, easily forgetting of the past for the sake of the present, and sometimes it is good to get connected with one's people. I have been recently asked why it was not a requirement for the host families to have an Internet connection. It is true that we do not have such a requirement, because the purpose of the host family program is not to have our students locked in their room chatting with every virtual connection from home while being secluded from their most immediate environment.

A study abroad experience is not only a maturity test where we can experience how to live our own life in our own way and after new fashions, far from our ordinary routines. It is also, for those who are more at ease with a computer than with real people, a useful reminder that real life—mind you—does exist. And in this real life, it *does happen* that some people do not have the Internet.



For the e-addicted crowd, there are different options, the simplest being the numerous Internet cafés available. In Luxembourg or Esch you can take advantage of the “hotcity” program—a city wide wifi network. It used to be a free program, but is now a paying one. Lastly, those who really do not like to get mixed with the rest of the crowd, or want to get plugged-in in the middle of the night, can use prepaid data cards. Those cards (sold by Orange) require a USB modem. They allow access to the Internet everywhere and at any time.

Still, I insist: real life has its purpose, too.

# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

22 MARCH 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### TIME-CHANGE REMINDER!

The United States 'sprung forward' last weekend, meaning there is only a **5 hour difference** between lovely Luxembourg and Oxford, Ohio. The time won't change in Europe until early **Sunday morning on March 28<sup>th</sup>**!

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

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Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? **Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events** ☺

### MUDEC Events

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY:

This week we will be hearing an exciting (and mandatory!) lecture by **Miami and MUDEC alumn Jeff Studenka from the Philips Health Care Division**. The fun begins promptly at 17:00 in the dining hall!

#### AFTER LECTURE RECEPTION!



Share a glass of wine and great conversation at the **post-lecture reception at Dean Leterre's apartment!** Sign up with Kelley if you're interested ☺

#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON: TRIER, GERMANY!

This **Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will be spending the afternoon in Trier, Germany! The bus will leave after lunch at 12:45 and will return back to Luxembourg in the early evening. **Sign up by Tuesday to reserve your spot!**

#### BEFORE YOU LEAVE...

Before you hit the road this Friday for untold adventures, make sure you clean out the fridge of

anything that might stink up the kitchen if left untouched for two weeks...



#### DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: VIANDEN, LUXEMBOURG!

We'll be exploring Luxembourg's medieval town of Vianden the Friday afternoon after Base Course Field Study! Stay tuned for details...

#### ANOTHER FREE CONCERT??

It may seem too good to be true, but the **Jeunesses Musicales Luxembourg and Professor Backes** have invited interested students to a **FREE** concert on **Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup>**. It may seem far away, but you need to reserve your spot before you head out for spring break!

#### CLASS REGISTRATION HEAD'S UP

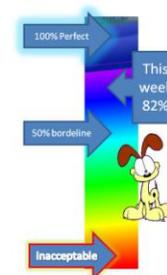
A perk of studying in Luxembourg? Early registration! Bannerweb will be open for **MUDECers on Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 14:00 Europe time (8am EST) until Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 17:59, European time**. This means you'll be registering for fall classes during Spring Break, so plan accordingly!



#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday this week to **Vince Mancuso** (March 23), **Tyler Hall** (March 25), **Zach Hyndman** (March 25), **Jenn Ressler** (March 25), and **Sarah Browning** (March 27)! And, of course, a *Joyeux Anniversaire* to our spring break birthdays, **Justin Bedocs** (April 2) and **John Shea** (April 3)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Honoring the past

### On the Dean's letter and student's absences

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, this dean's letter is going to be short, as this *Monday Morning* is late. Sometimes, it so happens that the best established plans do not work.

This is precisely the reason why we have an absence policy of up to 3 classes; it does not mean that absences should be "banked" for the end of the semester, and that one should plan not to show up for the last three weeks of the program. Absences rules are only there to allow for unforeseeable circumstances.

At any rate, instructors decide for their classes what is or is not "unforeseeable" and they are always in charge of determining their grading policy accordingly.

\*

### Wednesday activity

This Wednesday we will have a snack and lecture activity. The presentation will be given by Jeff Studenka who works for Phillips in Amsterdam. He is both a Miamian and a MUDECER. It is a great pleasure for us to welcome back a former student!

\*

### Honoring the past

I recently read an application for Miami University which includes an essay about motivations and personality. The student, a young Luxembourger, wrote that she could not remember when and how she became fascinated with the US. She was sure that Disneyland had

something to do with it when she was younger but, more importantly, she also remembered that when visiting family she would often pass by the World War II American cemetery. The student's parent explained why these tombs, and why young Americans sacrificed their lives for Luxembourg. This story echoed deeply in me, who have similar references (Disneyland played no part in my story, but the Sunday 5PM Western movie on the *only* channel of my parents' TV did). My parents did remember well the GI's (or French troops in American uniforms) arriving to their (and my) hometown on August 1944. Decades after, we visited the US cemeteries in Brittany.

The war connected the US and many peoples in the world in many different ways, and the feeling of gratitude was particularly strong in Luxembourg. So strong that it was part of Miami University's decision to implement its European Center in this country. So strong, that it is in this country that an American president, Ronald Reagan, decided to send the first US ambassador ever to be a naturalized citizen returning to the country of his birth—US ambassador John E. Dolibois.

We have the duty to keep this connection alive, and the possibility to do so: on May 8<sup>th</sup> students who would still be in Luxembourg are invited to accompany veterans from the World war in the official commemorative ceremonies.

Please join us to show that America is here to commemorate history, as it was here to make history, 66 years ago.



# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

12 APRIL 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events ☺

### MUDEC Events

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY:



This week we are hosting the adorable students of Differdange's elementary school at the Chateau for a 'Post-Easter Egg Hunt'! Meet in the courtyard at 14:00. The fun and games

will go until 15:30. If you have class, no worries – you are officially excused from the orientation event!

#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON: VIANDEN, LUXEMBOURG!

This Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, we are visiting beautiful Vianden, home of a fully restored medieval Chateau! Bag lunches will be included, so email Kelley by Tuesday to reserve a spot.



#### HIKE WITH THE HOFF!

Are you going to be in Luxembourg this weekend? The legendary Mr. Hoff will be taking folks on a hike this Saturday! Email Kelley if you are interested in joining the fun ☺

#### DISCOVERY TOUR PREVIEW: BASTOGNE, BELGIUM!

Any Band of Brother's fans out there? Next Friday we are visiting Bastogne, a city featured in the mini-series, and important in the Battle of the Bulge! Stay tuned for details...

#### BOFFERDING BREWERY TOUR, PART DEUX:



If you missed the first Bofferding tour, fear not! There is another free tour next Thursday, April 22 at 2:30! If you have not gone on the brewery tour and are interested in discovering 'The Secret of Luxembourg', sign up with Kelley!

#### BUS BACK TO DUSSELDORF!

The deadline to sign up for the bus to the airport for the May 7<sup>th</sup> group flight back to the States is April 27<sup>th</sup>!

#### PORTE OUVERT!

On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, MUDEC and the city of Differdange are hosting the first Chateau open-house! There will be food, games, and live music. We can also use your help! Check your email for a letter to your host family about making a cake to donate to our event. These will be sold bake-sale style at the event to benefit a local non-profit!

#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday this week to Sarah Spitnale (April 13)! And happy belated birthday to Josh Kalmikof (April 8)!



#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## Secret messages for new Generations

The Dolibois European Center welcomes back its brave troops gone exploring Europe and beyond, during the spring break and the study tour that followed. Study tours destinations were as exciting as ever: Paris and Brussels, Italy, the Netherlands, Prague and Cracow. This last tour was history made real: the students were in Prague while the American president was signing a major agreement on nuclear weapons with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. There is something symbolic about a young generation of American students, indirectly witnessing the fading of the cold war. Later, visiting death camps, the same students would see the scars of the most atrocious and murderous times in the European history.

Another historical event just happened when the same group was in Poland, on the day the country heard about the brutal death of its president along with the one of most of its senior leadership. These are moments when one is all of a sudden and without notice immersed in the collective existence of a people.

\*

Back to Luxembourg, we have a special event of a happy kind on Wednesday. We will be in contact with another sort of collective existence, thanks to a new generation of Luxembourgers who will come to visit us. We will welcome 60 pupils from the local primary school for a Post-Easter egg-hunt on the premises of the Château. As every Wednesday activity, this one is mandatory (come on! Do I really need to call for compulsory fun

with kids???) but as it will take place at the same time as some classes, formal education naturally has priority. No excuse for absences—the students must study. This being said, we do need a lot of people to help with the young crowd. On top of the egg-hunt, we'll have different games to keep the activity go on for a little more and for this too, we need help and support. It is a unique occasion to exercise one's communicating talents in Luxembourgish and/or with children. For having welcomed the school for an Apple picking event in the fall, I can say they are so joyously full of life, that they are life impersonated.

\*

Our center is named after John Dolibois, who, among many other things, wrote a delicious book with a beautiful title: *Pattern of circles*. Thinking of this title, and thinking also of Mr. Dolibois, with whom I had dinner during my recent visit to our home campus of Oxford, I cannot help rejoicing at the idea that we will welcome at the Dolibois Center a new

generation of young Luxembourgers, a generation which will hopefully be spared the horrors of war or the great fears of the Cold War when Europe was under the threat of nuclear missiles. This generation will have its own challenges, but for the time being, the biggest one will be to find eggs in the Park.

Speaking of generations and circle, I would like to end this letter in a circle, by conveying, from John Dolibois and his 1938 roommate whom I met at John Dolibois' apartment, their best greetings to a granddaughter currently studying at the center.



# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

19 APRIL 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...



#### CLAY CROTTTS

Your amazing SFC has planned a concert here in Differdange, featuring acoustic guitar player (and fellow American) Clay Crotts! The festivities begin at 20:00 at a local Differdange establishment.

#### WHAT ABOUT CHARLES THE BOLD?

Interested in learning more about the Chateau and practicing your French? There will be a lecture about the history of our campus' home this Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 16:30 – 18:30 in the dining hall. All are welcome (but remember that the talk will be *en francais!*)

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events ☺

### MUDEC Events

#### WEDNESDAY ORIENTATION ACTIVITY:



For our last fun, exciting (and mandatory!) orientation activity, we will have the pleasure of listening to the musical stylings of one of Miami's finest! A talented 7-string guitarist, Professor Garcia will be giving a very special recital with his Luxembourgish collaborator. The music begins promptly at 17:00 in the dining hall!

#### WEEKEND DISCOVERY AFTERNOON: BASTOGNE, BELGIUM!

Any Band of Brother's fans out there? Next Friday we are visiting Bastogne, a city featured in the mini-series, and important in the Battle of the Bulge! Email Kelley by Tuesday to reserve a spot! Be sure to say if you need a vegetarian lunch.

#### RUGBY:

Are



crazy

LUXEMBOURG VS. ISRAEL  
you a rugby enthusiast or interested in seeing what this European game is all about? On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Luxembourg is playing Israel in Lux City! The best part? Students get in FREE. Stay tuned for details...

#### BOFFERDING BREWERY TOUR, PART DEUX:

If you missed the first Bofferding tour, fear not! There is another free tour Thursday, April 22 at 2:30! If you have not gone on the brewery tour and are interested in discovering 'The Secret of Luxembourg', sign up with Kelley!

#### BUS BACK TO DUSSELDORF!

The deadline to sign up for the bus to the airport for the May 7<sup>th</sup> group flight back to the States is April 27<sup>th</sup>!

#### AWARDS BANQUET GALA!

On Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating a fantastic semester! We will also be honoring students, faculty and staff. Check your email inboxes for a formal invitation! RSVP (regrets only!) to Kelley by this Friday, April 23.

#### PORTE OUVERTE!

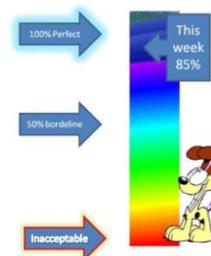
On Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, MUDEC and the city of Differdange are hosting the first Chateau open-house! Get pumped for food, games, and live music!



#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to Kim Turk (April 20) and Nicole Abbenante (April 21)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:



# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## The Center, Academia, Eggs, & the Volcanic World

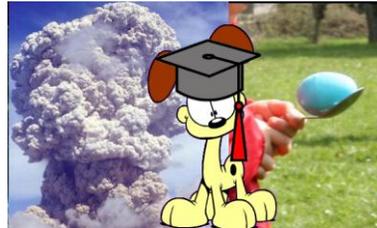
### A New Environment for the Dolibois Center

Miami University John E. Dolibois European Center is too little known for being one of the largest academic operations run by an American University in Europe: this year, over 250 students enrolled in the spring and fall semesters and 48 in the summer program. Around a hundred students will visit with programs hosted by the Center at some point for a few days or for a few weeks. The Center is even less known for being one of the largest operations as regards to academics coming over from the US to teach at the center: every year, more than 10 professors come from Miami to teach classes along with European faculty at the Dolibois Center. To say the least, Miami University's engagement in Europe is significant and compares to bigger consortiums which associate many universities in one program abroad.

This presence also tells a lot about the warmth of the community which welcomes us. Last week we had a chance to reciprocate, with our Post-Easter Egg hunt: 60 pupils of the local school and their teachers came to hunt for eggs in the park of the castle, discovering with enchantment the place and with a puzzled interest our typical American plastic eggs (easy to spot, not dangerous, hygienic...) which are unknown in this part of the world. The whole event was a great success. A thank you to our Student Activity coordinator and the Student-Faculty Council which organized it, the teachers who accepted enthusiastically the offer and the numerous students who joined to help the children in their looting for chocolate, making sure that everybody safely enjoyed the hunt and the egg race that followed.

### Faculty Engagement

The presence of a significant "intellectual task force" at the Center allows us to consider new possibilities in the context of the development of the University of Luxembourg, and of the "great region" between Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Germany, which aims to integrate the competences of the many local universities.



Last week, we had a concrete illustration of what this new type of engagement can, and should, be thanks to Professor Thurston who conducted a Master's seminar at the University of Luxembourg on the topic of "The International Rape Scare and American Lynching, 1880-1920". Professor Thurston, who also recently presented a paper in Germany, allowed our two universities to work in the spirit of the agreement that President Hodge and Rector Tarrach signed in 2008 to favor research exchanges. We also owe great thanks to Professor Lehnert who helped organizing the event with his well-known efficiency and kindness.

Beyond the immediate outcome of a seminar enthusiastically appreciated by the 25 or so Master's students attending (and by their professors), Professor Thurston and his counterparts worked on the possibility to organize a joint conference in 2012. A tentative theme was mentioned, the "Cultural History of Multilingualism", and other projects were evoked such as the development of joint projects in the field of graduate studies.

### The Bubble and the Volcano

With a whole continent strangled with grounded flights for days, and with a Dolibois Center which is a magnet program for traveler students, it was no surprise (though in a way it was a bad surprise) that students should be stuck in different places in Europe. Actually a remarkably small number of students from the Dolibois Center are reported to be blocked: 8 in Barcelona, 4 in Ireland.

Thanks to the 24/24 emergency contact number of the Center and the niceties of modern IT communication, students were able to keep the dean, their family, and their teachers posted, and solutions were worked out. Unfortunately fast possibilities proved to be impossible: Ferries were crowded, it was impossible to rent a car from Spain to Luxembourg or catch a train (the French railways are on strike). We have to be patient and wait until next Thursday to have our whole lot safely back.

Students managed to secure proper accommodation, and have kept close contact with the Center, indeed showing that they are mature travelers. The fact that students travel in groups is sometimes criticized for creating a "Miami Bubble" around us even when we are out of class. These circumstances also show that it is as a prudent and reasonable choice.

# MEINDEG MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

26 APRIL 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...



#### RUGBY: LUXEMBOURG VS. ISRAEL

Are you a rugby enthusiast or interested in seeing what this crazy European game is all about? **On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 18h00 Luxembourg is playing Israel in Lux City!** The best part? Students get in FREE, so bring your student ID! Take the number 22 bus (direction *Centre Hospitalier*) to the *Stade* stop.

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

Interested in activities that are happening in Luxembourg this week? **Check out the blog for the weekly schedule of events** ☺

### MUDEC Events



#### BOAT TOUR OF THE MOSELLE!

Before our oh-so-swanky Awards Banquet Gala, we will be taking a lovely tour of the Moselle by boat, after which we will head to our dinner! **Be dressed and ready to roll by 15h30 when the buses will pick us up from the Chateau!**

#### AWARDS BANQUET GALA!

On **Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**, we will be celebrating a fantastic semester! We will also be honoring students, faculty and staff. The festivities will begin after the boat tour!

#### LOOKING FOR SOME LAST MINUTE CASH?

The **Chateau will be open this weekend (10h – 17h)** so you studious students can cram for final exams! **We will need two proctors**, one on Saturday, one on Sunday, to hold down the fort. Interested? Email Kelley!

#### BOOK BUY-BACKS!

Not interested in carting those text-books back to the U.S.? **Book buy-backs will be next week, Monday thru Wednesday in the library!** Keep your eyes peeled for a posted list of books that will be bought back...



#### DONATION BOXES

Starting this week there will be donation boxes placed in the cave, library and main lobby! **Feel free to donate your school supplies, clothing, books, anything and everything you don't want to schlep back to the U.S.!** We'll make sure everything finds a good home!

#### BUS BACK TO DUSSELDORF!

**Be sure to check your email to verify that your name on the list if you are taking the shuttle back to Dusseldorf airport for the group flight!** Still need to sign up? Tell Kelley ASAP!!

#### PORTE OUVERTE!

On **Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, MUDEC and the city of Differdange are hosting the first Chateau open-house! Get pumped for food, games, and live music!



#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Alex Oprins** (April 26) and **Lauren Burgei** (April 27)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:

*Cleanliness Index*

81%

# DEAN'S LETTER

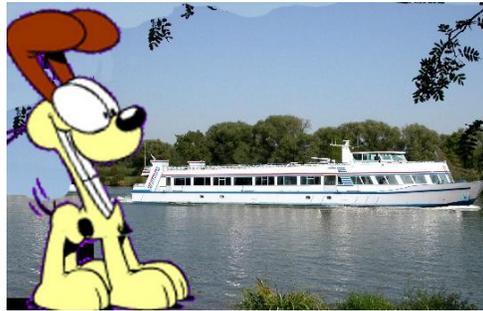
'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## The last week of class

### Back to Luxembourg

As a follow-up to my previous Dean's letter, I am happy to let our community know that everybody has made it back to Luxembourg safely after the volcanic turmoil of last week. I would like to underline how students who were blocked in Barcelona and in Ireland showed maturity and responsibility. They kept the Center informed and in difficult circumstances organized efficiently their plans back to, what they appreciated more, as their temporary home.

I also am grateful to all the instructors who accepted to reorganize their program to assist the students who were stranded in different places, so that they can catch up with their work and cover the material for their classes before next week's final exams. In particular, I would like to express grateful thoughts to Guy de Muysers who kindly proposed to repeat his class for a Tuesday Lunch review seminar with students who were absent because of the (non) travel situation of last week.



### Music

Paradoxically, while our unfortunate travellers were grounded to their destination, Professor Shaffer (who recently received a Distinguished Educator Award) took her class exhibition in Dudelange about... tourists and nomads!

They will also have missed the exceptional performance of Professor Garcia, who generously offered us a concert on Wednesday. It was also an opportunity to welcome a Luxembourgish Miami alumna, and former student of Professor Garcia, Simone Weber. Simone Weber benefited from a scholarship to Miami, which allowed her to enroll in the graduate program of music. Along with Professor Garcia, and his unusual 7 string guitar, she made our Wednesday evening a most harmonious one. Thanks for the fantastic music!

### Volcanic times - what is ahead of us

As everybody knows, travels were severely disturbed last week because of a dangerous ash cloud provoked by the

eruption of a volcano in Iceland. For the time being, favorable winds carry the cloud away from continental Europe. One problem for us—let's face it—is that if winds were to change again, flights might be grounded again too. Applying common wisdom—better safe than sorry—we are contacting host families so that in case of delays students would have a place to stay for a few more days. Students flying with the group flight from Dusseldorf will be fully helped through the situation whatever it is. Independent travelers or students traveling with other groups should make their own back up plans in case of a difficulty. Once again, we do not expect to deal with the ash cloud again, however, should a problem arise, it is important to know what to do.

### Get together

To properly say good bye to this wonderful semester we enjoyed, we have ahead of us an exceptional evening on Wednesday. The reception onboard of the *Roude Léiw* for a scenic tour of the Moselle will be followed by the semester Awards Banquet at the *Piccolo Mondo Restaurant* in Differdange. The Awards Banquet is an opportunity for our community to be together one last time for a (delicious) dinner and share more fond memories. It is also a formal gathering where a series of scholarship will be distributed.

The \$1000 tuition credit of the **Ruth and Leland Dutton Scholarship** rewards outstanding academic excellence, citizenship, community membership, and well-balanced interests; the 250€ **Maria Bach Dunn Academic Scholarship** recognizes two students for their keen interest in Europe, excellent academic performance, and good citizenship at the Dolibois Center and in the Luxembourg community; the 250€ **Rebecca Andrew and Christopher Eggerton Scholarship** is awarded to two students who have demonstrated a desire to live life to its fullest, excellent citizenship at the Dolibois Center and in the Luxembourg community, and a solid commitment to academics. Finally, the **Faculty Staff Scholarship** is offered to two students and proctors who have shown particular dedication during their stay at the Dolibois Center.

Prepare your black tie and fine attire and join!

# MEINDE & MOIEN

## "MONDAY MORNING"

3 MAY 2010

### This week in Luxembourg...

#### BLOG SHENANIGANS

[www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com](http://www.mudecactivities.wordpress.com)

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### MUDEC Events

#### BOOK BUY-BACKS!

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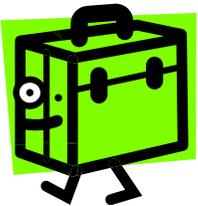


#### DONATION BOXES

Starting this week there will be donation boxes placed in the cave, library and main lobby! **Feel free to donate your school supplies, clothing, books, anything and everything you don't want to schlep back to the U.S.!** We'll make sure everything finds a good home!

#### RESIDENCE FORMS NEEDED:

Remember those **white residence forms** you got when you registered with your town hall? It's time to turn those back into Crici by **Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**! Any questions? Stop by Crici's office and she'll show you what you need!



#### DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT...

Want to drop off a suitcase or two before Thursday night? You can

put your luggage in the room in front of Kelley's office Monday – Wednesday, and in the main lobby from 8:00 – 17:00 on Thursday!

#### BUS TO THE AIRPORT....

The buses to the Dusseldorf airport will be leaving the Chateau at **midnight, Thursday evening!** The Chateau will be open at **11:45pm** so you can pick up any bags you may have dropped off! The bus will also be stopping at the **Bettembourg train station and Lux City train station** for you non-Differdange folks.

#### PORTE OUVERTE!

On **Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, MUDEC and the city of **Differdange** are hosting the **first Chateau open-house!** It will be a great opportunity to practice some of your language skillz with locals! Get pumped for food, games, and live music!

#### A FEW FINAL THINGS!

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



#### JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

Happy Birthday to **Dani Burgoon** (May 3), **Lauren Bowser** (May 4), **Kate Jacob** (May 4), **Matt Alitouche** (May 6) and **Stephen Wilton** (May 6)!

#### THIS WEEK'S CLEANLINESS INDEX:

*Cleanliness Index*

81%

# DEAN'S LETTER

'GOOD THINGS HAPPEN ON MONDAY (TOO)'

## **Open house: the adventure continues (we count on you once more)**

### **Parting**

I am one of these people who do not like to say good bye. And the good thing, on this week when we part, is that there is still much to do together.

As probably everybody knows, the big news of the week is...

No... Not that it is finals weeks... Come on!

...is the Open house event tomorrow.

It has been a well-set tradition by my dear friend and predecessor, Dr. Stiller, to open the castle to the community which welcomes us and I am always proud when we can continue to work in the same spirit of openness and expand our interactions. The previous event, the egg hunt with the children of the primary school was—to say the least—a success. Tomorrow, we will go even bigger; we have invited the whole Differdange (*ie.* not only Differdange-town, but Differdange-District) to come and join us for an open house which is co-organized by the Dolibois Center, the Miami Alumni Luxembourg Chapter, and the City of Differdange.

Organizations such as the Old Cars (thanks to which we shall have two beautiful models), the Karate club, and the historical association *Déifferdenger Geschichtsfreñn* will join us to offer some animation to the event.

### **Partying**

We will have our own activities such as tours of the castle with groups of visitors, music (performed by

the local school of music and by Miami Students) and of course: there will be food from the Alumni Grill as well as cakes from our friends' kitchens.

I am thankful to our partners from Differdange and Luxembourg for their kind participation to this event. It would just not have taken place if it had not benefited from a network of good wills.

I also want to mention the staff of the Dolibois who coped with the extra-work required by the event with graceful dedication. It is more than legitimate to thank more especially our Student Activity Coordinator, Kelley Engelbrecht, who has been the enthusiastic and hard-working coordinator of this open-house. I measure the magnitude of the task, and I am truly thankful to her for her engagement in the project!

### **Let's meet again**

This open house event will serve as a fund raiser for the Alumni Chapter (grill) and for the Differdange School of Music (Cakes).

But in my mind, it will also serve as a giant farewell party for the students of this semester. No good party is a success without dedicated hosts. We do need the good will of students to help us with the stands and the organization of the tours of the Castle. Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered for this task, which, I know, will be fun and rewarding.

And no farewell party is a success if “bye” does not echo to “come back”. Come back, for instance, for the first European Reunion which will take place on the summer of 2011 at the Castle!

We cannot wait to see you again!

