



The Wrap Up... Possibly My Final Post



From Ryan Fuldauer's personal travel blog Ryan Takes Europe.

Wow. Since before my first post, I had an idea about how this last one would be. And I thought I was prepared, but, this is incredibly hard to write. Coming to Europe already 4 months ago, everything was new. It was vacation 24/7. I was trying to take in the newness of everything surrounding me; the new language, new signs, new money, new cus-

tomms. At first, I couldn't wait to start crossing cities off the list. I was finally in Europe, independent, on my own, and free to travel anywhere I wanted. Everything is so close and accessible here. I first went to Amsterdam, a trip that feels like an eternity ago now, and was so excited to see everything the city had to offer. As time went on, it became more and more routine. I found myself becoming complacent with traveling. I started taking it for granted. As I now look back, I am so thankful for the opportunity to cross nearly every major place off my list that I wanted to see in Europe.

But now the time has come to return. Almost. There is less than a week left here. I think back on the incredible experiences I've had, and how much my life has changed as a result. Coming here, on the drive in from Brussels, I was taking pictures of the road signs, of the scenery, of everything. Then we arrived at the chateau which was incredibly exciting. As I said, everything was new. Somewhere between then and now, Luxembourg became my home. It is normal to not understand people. I can recognize the surroundings. The chateau is not an imposing building but a second home in Differdange. And the thought of returning to the US, of leaving this life behind me, is actually scary. The US has actually become almost a foreign country in my mind. It seemed for a very long time that I would be here forever. That I would never be able to get back. And now that I'm leaving the country in exactly 4 days from now, I'm almost in denial. And I don't do denial at all. I've never been able to hide my thoughts about anything from myself. But I really can't believe it.

The thought of returning to the states is like knowing you're about to lose a loved one, and there's nothing you can do about it. It's not that I'm not excited to come back and see everyone, I am, as many of you know very well I've been looking forward to that for a very long time. But leaving this life, this home, for what realistically will probably be forever, it's really like a part of me is about to die with my return. A part of me that was born here, and has grown and changed me. Those lessons I've learned that helped shape me will always stay with me, but it's

always going to be missing. I can only hope that in the near future there are new experiences that can help fill this space.

On that note, I want to say a word about the MUDEC community. Coming here, I didn't know anybody. Not a single person. And I am rather introverted so this was a bit concerning. It took me a while to get close to the other people here, as was expected, but once the situation became familiar, things started to change. I think back to those orientation sessions in McGuffey Hall in the fall, and sitting alone, not knowing anyone, and being unsure of whether I would ever become friends with anyone. Now, after the banquet, after the semester, and looking at all the friends I've made here, it's crazy to think that these are the same groups of people. If anyone from MUDEC is reading this, you probably are someone who I've gotten to know during my time here. If you are close enough with me to want to read this blog post, then you are probably someone who's helped shape this experience for me. And I want to thank you, because as I mentioned, I knew nobody, and now, even though I'm not incredibly close with everybody, there's some sort of bonding effect when you're with only 100 other students all the time in this crazy new world. If you're reading this, you're probably someone who I hope to see again state side. Because I truly do value the relationships I've made here.

On another note, I would like to thank my host family publicly, because I know you'll see this:) . Relating to what I just mentioned, I was nervous about a host family, because I haven't had super amazing experiences living with people in the past. And this is that on a whole new scale. I was pleasantly surprised to find that without requesting it I would be living without a roommate, and incredibly close to the chateau. Not only that, but you all were very welcoming, which was very reassuring for me... Not only from the start did you show interest

***"Somewhere between then and now,
Luxembourg became my home."***

in me, but 3 days after I departed Cleveland, it was my birthday and you celebrated with me to my surprise. You provided me with a good breakfast every day; a hot shower every day; a nice, comfortable room; even meals when I was around; and most importantly, fast wifi. I am only half joking about that because I know that a majority of students didn't have wifi in their homes and of those who did, most were not fast enough to watch shows or, most importantly of all, Skype. I appreciate all that you have done for me to make my experience truly remarkable. I was very lucky to have been put into such an amazing home, and I will not forget it. Thank you for everything you have done for me, for putting up with me going down those stairs in the middle of the night, for loudly snoring in the middle of the night, and all that fun stuff :) .

Continued onto the next page

I learned a lot about my relationships with people back home as well. I often felt quite isolated. Out of the loop. Forgotten (resulting purely from paranoia I assure you). It is very hard being 6 hours ahead, and you can't understand what it's like unless you've studied abroad. If I was annoying to anyone I apologize, it's really only because of that isolated feeling. I just wanted to talk to you like normal but couldn't which was frustrating to me, and like I said, if you have gone abroad for a semester, that's really the only way to understand what I mean. When I could talk, friends were busy, and when you could I was sleeping. I want to thank each and every one of you for keeping in touch with me when I needed it. It was harder than you can imagine being away from you all, and I can say that because if you are reading this you probably fall into that elite category about whom I can say this. Some of you were able to Skype me periodically, which made it easier. Some of you were not able to, which only made me realize how much I missed you and couldn't wait to get back to a situation when we can talk again. I want you to know that if you're reading this, you're probably in the group of people who I never stopped thinking about for a day, and I love you all now more than ever because I know how special the relationships with each of you truly are to me.

Other things I've learned that have changed how I operate, for example, includes rolling with the punches life throws at me rather than stressing over things I can't change. This came during that hellish break where nothing went my way, as some of you probably remember well. I learned that if there's nothing I can do and it's not

literally killing me, it'll probably just make for a better time to just chill, because everything will work out one way or another. Also, I've learned what it's like to be a foreigner; to feel like people always are patronizing me because I'm not from here, or just getting frustrated because I can't understand what they're trying to say or I'm doing something that is wrong. Tolerance is a good thing, it'll make the experience of those who aren't from the area much better if people just accept them for how they are rather than criticize and judge.

Looking back on it all, I am so pleased with the way everything played out. I've had experiences that could have never happened anywhere else, culminating with today meeting the man who will one day sit on the Luxembourg throne. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. While I sometimes lost sight of this in lieu of homesickness or rather friend-sickness to better describe where the feeling was coming from, I wouldn't have done this any other way. I want to thank again everybody who played even a minor part in making this what it was for me. I'm gonna miss every aspect of it. From the mountains of bread, to traveling across scenic postcard landscapes to amazing destinations by the convenience of train nearly every weekend, even including the frustration of being unable to connect to others at home easily, the laundry facilities, and the amazingly fast computers needed to easily print (super sarcasm). Because everything is a story. Everything is a memory. And I will treasure every memory I've made, every story I can share. Of everything. And everyone. Always. <3

Ryan Fuldauer, Miami Alumni Spring 2014

Safe and safely in Luxembourg and during travels

Luxembourg is one of the safest countries in the world, if not the safest (some surveys say so). It is also a fact that the global level of criminality in Western Europe is inferior to the one in the U.S. It is nevertheless important not to be lured in a false sense of absolute security and to keep being "safety aware" because, well, the safest places have their areas which are comparatively more problematic. In many circumstances, simple safety tips can help and hence should be constantly present to our mind.

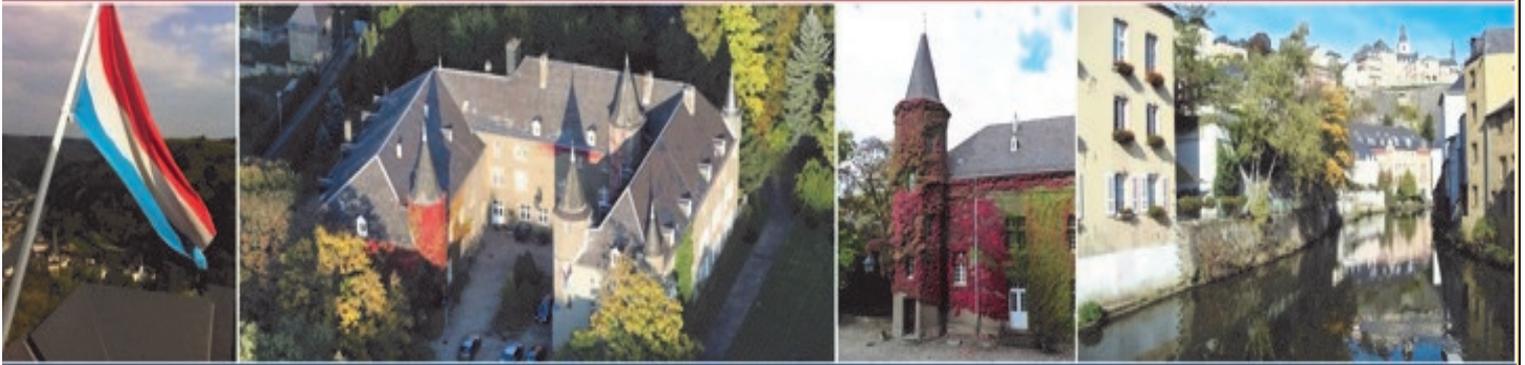
A vigilant attitude considerably helps avoiding being the target of unwanted solicitations and, worse, assault. One must bear in mind that young tourists or students traveling are one of the favorite targets for scam or attempted theft or simply unwanted solicitation.

When traveling outside of Luxembourg, always check US embassies websites and register with the Smart traveler program. Let the Center know of your traveling plans.

It is recommended to avoid walking back home or to one's hotel alone after sunset and in isolated areas. It is better to invest in a cab rather than taking a risk. This is true even early in the evening when public transportation systems slow down. Increased attention is required in a new city. It is always important to locate difficult areas prior to travelling to a new place.

Party areas in big cities are often places which both attract the greatest fun and the most unwanted attention from the wrong kind of people. 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 case of a problem in Luxembourg, 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 or calling the emergency number of the Center. 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 must let the Center know, and report to the police. If you are traveling, you should report to the local police. The center will naturally help you with this as much as you need.



The Week of May 19th, 2014

This week MUDEC is excited to welcome faculty & students from the Dolibois Summer Program, the Farmer School of Business, and Ball State University to the Château!

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)

Like hiking?

Looking for a running trail? There are miles and miles of old mine trails that are right in our backyard! You can explore or ask Katie for good trail recommendations.

Internet everywhere

Did you know that the internet works everywhere in the château, even outside in the garden? Feel free to use the picnic benches and the beautiful backyard!

Laundry

The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUlaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

The cave

Located in what was previously the Château wine cellar is the MUDEC Student Center. You can choose a locker, utilize the student kitchen, and settle into the castle life!

Sports equipment

Take advantage of this beautiful weather! If you want to play a game of “football” or football to get to know one another, Katie has equipment in her office!

Send the newsletter to your parents!

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

Forget something?

Check the local Proxy grocery store across from Differdange’s main park or take Bus 14 to the Luxembourgish superstore Cactus! Directions can be found on the Student Activities Website!

Need help?

Just ask! The MUDEC administration and staff are happy to help you as you get oriented!

Interested in a European cell phone?

Explore the Tango store that is just down the street.

You can purchase their basic phone for about €25 and use a prepaid, reloadable SIM card. This gives you a Luxembourgish number that you can call and text one another cheaply throughout Europe! See Katie’s email for more details on your phone options!

Want to know how to get around Luxembourg? Where is the nearest grocery store? International travel how-tos? Check out the resource page on the... [Student Activities Website!](#)

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**



What is going on...



The end of the spring and the beginning of the summer are traditionally a period of great activity in Luxembourg, packed with events and festivals. Differdange brilliantly managed the transition by winning a national title in soccer. We warmly congratulate our local team who won the

Luxembourg Cup final 2-0 against league champions Dudelange. As regards to us, we also get ready for the season with many events planned at the Dolibois Center.

Workshops

The students of the Dolibois Center Intensive Summer Program are currently on a study tour in London with Elizabeth Mullenix who teaches one of the three courses of the summer along with James Coyle and Ricardo Averbach. Our group has not left an empty Center behind: Last Friday, I had the pleasure to welcome to the Dolibois Center the Farmer School of Business "Lux Plus" Program. This workshop will be in session in Luxembourg for the next three weeks. I am sure they will have a productive time in Luxembourg as well as a great personal experience. We

also have the continued pleasure of hosting the Ball State University International Business Program which will leave this coming Wednesday.

Culture

On Saturday we will welcome the Miami Glee Club who will perform for the Memorial Ceremony in homage to John Dolibois at the Cultural Center of Differdange (just across the street). Having the Glee perform is always a special privilege. Having them perform at the memorial ceremony to John Dolibois

is all the more special: it is a more than appropriate testimony to the love of culture and engagement John Dolibois (an honorary member of the Glee) has constantly demonstrated in his lifetime. Next week our program will continue its cultural engagement on the 3rd Transatlantic Dialog Conference convening in Luxembourg City with hundreds of students from Europe and the U.S. The week after, our program will join the traditional Echternach procession. On Friday June 13th, the Dolibois Center will co-sponsor a one man show with the City of Differdange, the Amitiés Françaises, and the Institut Français of Luxembourg. Saturday June 21st, we will open the gates of the Château to celebrate Music Day with the performance of National Big Bands.

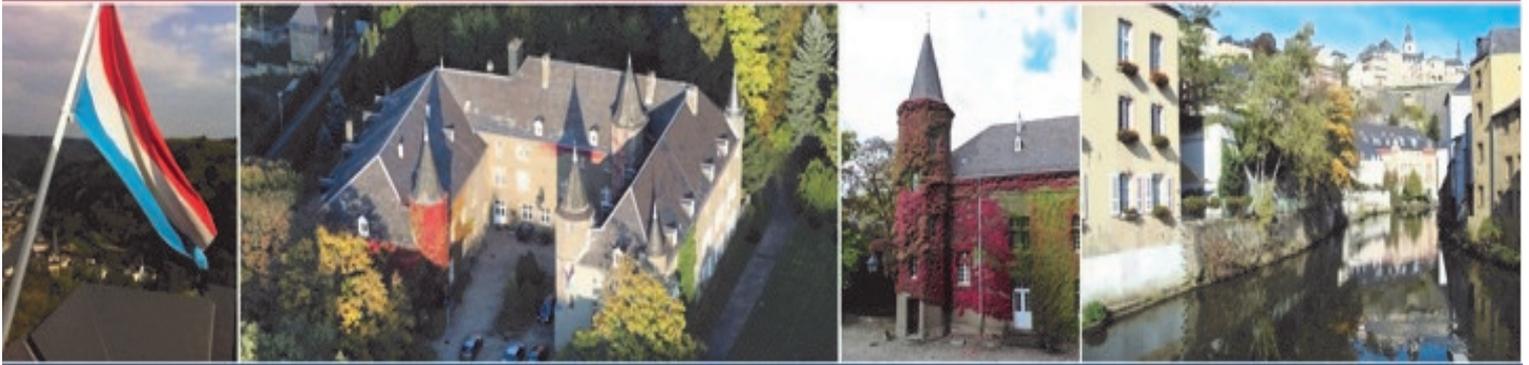
Politics

While we are checking the unfolding of local events, let us put a word about big politics. Last week was election time in Europe; the ballot closed yesterday. Luxembourg voted for 6 of the 766 members of the European parliament. The Christian Socials won 3 seats, the Democrats, the Green and the Socialists having 1 seat each. Once more Luxembourgers have shown their support for moderation and appreciation for "government" parties over "protest" parties.

This was not the case in the rest of the Union: "Euro-sceptic"

and extreme-right parties have garnered more seats at the European Parliament, triggering renewed worries about the state of the Union and concerns over social tensions which explain to a certain extent the increased support to extremist parties. In Europe, the crisis is not over, and the ballot of last week clearly illustrates the fact.

Such results are sobering: even in the most multicultural place of the planet, people still have to progress to work together.



The Week of May 26th, 2014

Discover the Differdange Mine Trails!

Like hiking? Looking for a running trail? There are miles and miles of old mine trails that are right in our backyard! Katie will lead a hike **Tuesday at 14:00**

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)

Laundry

The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUIaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

Send the newsletter to your parents!

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

Attention! Line 60 Train Work!

Starting at **22:15...**

for **Monday 5/26, Tuesday 5/27, Monday 6/2, Tuesday 6/3, Wednesday 6/4, Thursday 6/5, Wednesday 6/11, and Thursday 6/12...**

There will be a shuttle bus replacing the train between Belval-Soleuvre and Pétange. The shuttle bus will pick up and drop off in Differdange just past the traffic circle at the Arbed bus stops.

John E. Dolibois Memorial Ceremony

Saturday, May 31st at 10:30

Aalt Stadhaus Cultural Center, Differdange

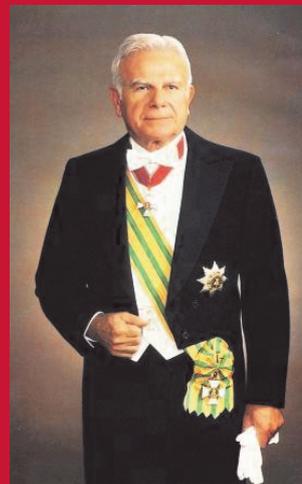
Join us as we remember Ambassador Dolibois and honor him through a special concert by the Miami Men's Glee Club.

Interested in other Glee Club concerts in Luxembourg?

Friday, May 30th—13:00: Église St. Joseph, 12 Rue de l'Église, Esch

Friday, May 30th—20:00: Église St. Martin, 14 Rue des Écoles, Dudelange

Saturday May 31st—18:50: International European Choir Competition, Mersch



Need a European phone?

At Tango just down the street, you can purchase a basic phone for about €25 and use a prepaid, reloadable SIM card. This gives you a Luxembourgish number that allows you to call and text one another cheaply throughout Europe!

National Holiday Thursday

The center (and many local establishments) will be closed in celebration. The trains will also run on holiday schedules.

Student Activities Website!

Want to know how to get around Luxembourg? Where is the nearest grocery store? International travel how-tos? Check out the resource page on the Student Activities Website.

Need help?

Just ask! The MUDEC administration and staff are happy to help you as you get oriented!

Château Hours

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 Friday: **8:00–17:00**
 Saturday & Sunday: **CLOSED**

Academic Offices:
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 & **13:00–17:00**



Experiencing Differdange, Experiencing Europe



Returning from a weekend of travel to Cologne, Germany and Maastricht, Netherlands, I stepped off of the train in Differdange expecting to see a quiet sleepy town on a late Sunday afternoon. I should've known better. From the platform I could hear a pulsating Latin beat, and as I walked through town, I realized that the Differdange Multicultural Festival was in full swing! This was a perfect example of how different the REAL Differdange is from the perception most of us in the Farmer School of Business Luxembourg Plus program had of our temporary European home.

A frequent comment from students is that they didn't realize how big Differdange is. Most had an image of a very small town, with a Chateau, a couple of restaurants and shops, and a train station to take them out of town to experience Europe. We've been surprised at how much we can experience right here in the third largest city in Luxembourg. There's a vast diversity of restaurants, and importantly, when studying the topic of Management and Leadership, a great diversity in the people living here.

Last week, our class discussed the topic of diversity, initially through the lens of the domestic American experience. This included a look at Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action and ways organizations are effectively managing diversity. As we've seen significant diversity everywhere we travel in Europe, it was interesting to look at diversity from the European Union perspective. The focus in the EU is on Diversity Char-

ters: documents voluntarily signed by a company outlining the measures it will undertake to promote diversity and equal opportunities in the workplace.

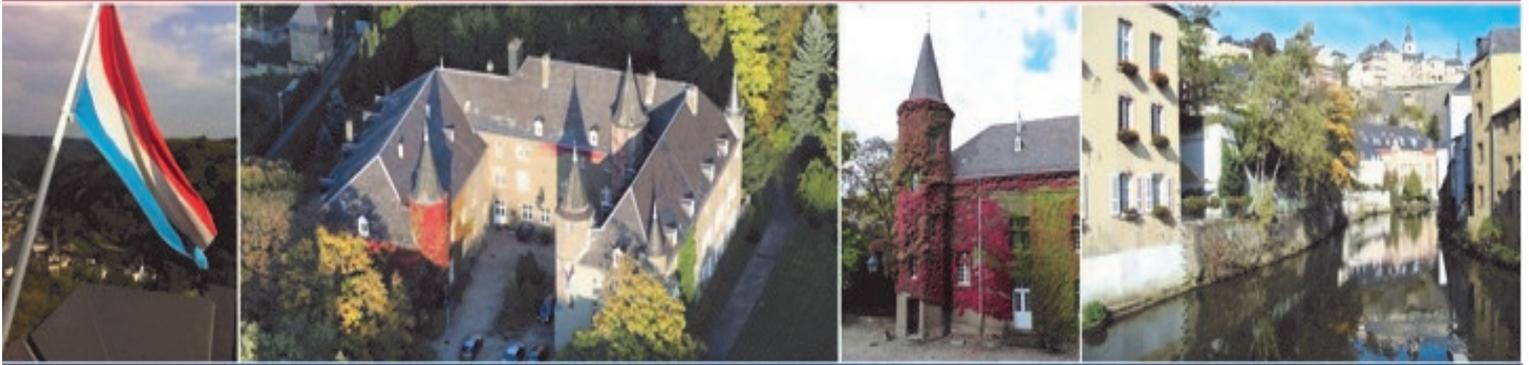
It was surprising to learn that the Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority, with six million living in the EU. Roma is term used to refer to diverse groups that include Roma, Gypsies and Travellers. Roma are frequently victims of discrimination and social prejudice, even though discrimination is banned under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

As our Management and Leadership class moves on to different topics, we will continue to focus on differences between Europe and the United States. In a couple of days, we will be visiting the Arcelor Mittal steel mill in Differdange. We hope to gain from this, and through other company tours and guest speakers over the next few weeks, a glimpse of European management and leadership practices. We hope to learn about how these organizations motivate their employees, their methods of compensation and their use of other rewards both intrinsic and extrinsic. Perhaps there are different leadership prototypes, or unique ways in which groups and teams are utilized.

I expected to need to visit Luxembourg City to gain exposure to European culture. It's wonderful to realize that we can begin our exploration of that culture with a short walk down the hill into the heart of Differdange.

Professor Rocco Manzo, who is teaching in the FSB Lux Plus Program this summer

"We've been surprised at how much we can experience right here in the third largest city in Luxembourg... and importantly, when studying the topic of Management and Leadership, a great diversity in the people living here."



The Week of June 2nd, 2014

Congratulations to Miami's Men's Glee Club!

They won first place in the International Choir Competition that took place in Mersch, Luxembourg this weekend!

Library closed Tuesday night

Tuesday night after 6 pm the library will close as MUDEC hosts the opening gala dinner for the Transatlantic Dialogue!

Looking for more resources?

Check the [Student Activities Webpage!](#)

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)

Time to do laundry?

The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUlaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

Discover the Differdange mine trails

Like hiking? Looking for a running trail? There are miles and miles of old mine trails that are right in our backyard! Katie will lead a hike **Tuesday at 15:00** and **Wednesday at 13:00**.

Château gate

Starting Wednesday the gate at the end of our Château driveway will remain closed. You can walk through the gardens in front to get to the Château.

MUDEC Participates in the 3rd Transatlantic Dialogue this week!



This week our Dolibois Summer Program will go to the beautiful Neumünster Abbey in Luxembourg's Grund to meet with students across cultures and from the University of Luxembourg to discuss "A Vision for Global Leadership" in a three day conference from Wednesday through Friday.

MUDEC would like to extend a warm welcome back to Lee Lux who will be working this summer in the center's administrative office!



Attention! Line 60 Train Work!

Starting at **22:15...**

Monday 6/2, Tuesday 6/3, Wednesday 6/4, Thursday 6/5, Wednesday 6/11, and Thursday 6/12...

There will be a shuttle bus replacing the train between Belval-Universite and Pétange. The shuttle bus will pick up and drop off in Differdange just past the traffic circle at the Arbed bus stops.

Send the newsletter to your parents!

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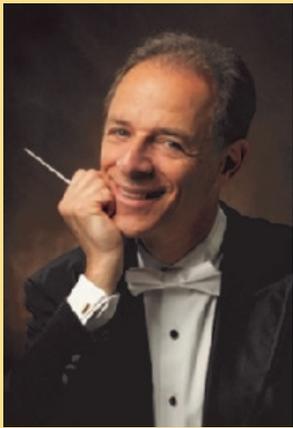
Château Hours

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Cannes in Differdange: A Gala Evening



The Cannes Film Festival was founded in 1946 and is the most prestigious and publicized film festival in the world. The 2014 Cannes Film Festival took place between 14 May – 25 May, ending while Miami students were enjoying their first study tour in London.

In celebration of the presence of Liz Mullenix, Ricardo Averbach and James Coyle in Luxembourg, the festival will send its great winners of all times for a gala event at the Château de Differdange on Wednesday, June 11 at the Grand Salon. As customary, the stars are supposed to pose for the paparazzi (see below).



Source: Wikipedia—Cannes Film Festival

In order to be admitted to the event, Miami students should come elegantly dressed, each one representing a famous European movie star. Awards will be distributed, as well as a taste of French/Luxembourg hospitality. Should you decide to be Alain Delon, forget about it because he is already taken by Ricardo Averbach. Brigitte Bardot is also taken (by Liz Mullenix). Preference

is given to French or Italian artists. Guests of honor will be Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and their six children.

During the event we will celebrate the 25th by presenting the Italian masterpiece movie "Cinema Paradiso," also winner of the Best Foreign Movie award at the Oscars and the Golden Globe Awards. The film was ranked #27 in Empire magazine's "The 100 Best Films Of World Cinema" in 2010.

Dr. Ricardo Averbach, who is teaching in the 2014 Dolibois Summer Program

Fun Facts about the Cannes Film Festival

2 km: The total length of red carpet unraveled over the duration of the festival. The carpets are changed three times a day!

6: The number of new languages added to the Cannes website last year to stress the festival's international character.

3,767: The number of journalists who attended the festival last year, making Cannes the 2nd largest media event after the Olympics.

200,000: The total number of actors, directors, producers, agents and fans who flock to the French city for the event each year for the festival.

1: The number of women who have ever won a Palme d'Or, "Golden Palm," the most prestigious award given for the best film.

1,715: The number of films that were submitted last year, whittled down by judges to 19 nominees in the competition section.

Source: Telegraph.co.uk



The Week of June 9th, 2014

This week MUDEC bids...

“Au revoir!” to our FSB Lux Plus Program who continue onwards to Switzerland, “Bienvenue!” to the FSB First Year Select Program, and “Bon voyage!” to the Dolibois Summer Program who will travel to their study tour in Brussels & Paris!

Looking for more resources?

Check the [Student Activities Webpage!](#) Find a map of local restaurants, public transportation, international travel tips, and medical/safety information!

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)

Monday, June 9th is Luxembourg's national holiday celebration of Pentecost or "Whit Monday"

Note: Local establishments, public transportation, and the Château will run on holiday hours.

Cirque Du Soleil is in town!

Only from June 11th through June 15th at the Rockhal (just off of the Belval-Université stop) you can experience it's first ever appearance in Luxembourg! Tickets can be bought online [here!](#)

Time to do laundry?

The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUIaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

Whit Monday's

Tuesday Dancing Procession in Echternach!

Luxembourg celebrates the end of the Christian Easter cycle with a dancing procession from the tomb of the city's patron saint into the heart of Echternach!

The Dolibois Summer Program will get to experience the National festivities and tradition joining over 15,000 other local participants!



If you want to take part in the procession, be sure to wear a solid white top and bring a piece of white clothing or fabric to dance with! We will meet in the courtyard at **8:15 Tuesday morning!**

Want to get outside and enjoy the summer day?

Explore one of the many mine trails right in Differdange's backyard! Use the Château WIFI out on the lawn! Or borrow the sports equipment in Katie's office!

Line 60 Train Work- Almost Complete!

For just two more nights... **Wednesday 6/11 and Thursday 6/12** starting at **22:15**... There will be a shuttle bus replacing the train between Belval-Université and Pétange. The shuttle bus will pick up and drop off in Differdange just past the traffic circle at the Arbed bus stops.

Château Hours

Monday: **8:00—17:00**
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Diversity and experience

It is a pleasure to welcome to the Dolibois Center the "First Year Select" workshop from the Farmer School of Business, its students and its instructors

Dr. Mark McBride and Dr. Laura Tholke. This First Year Select workshop, which comes after the Ball State and Lux Plus Programs which visited MUDEC over the last 4 weeks, and which comes before the Luxembourg Summer Institute for the Humanities that will take place in early July, illustrates the diversification of our activities. Founded in 1968 as a year-long study abroad program, the then Miami University European Center (now named after John E. Dolibois) has become a hub for Miami University international activities in Europe.

Obviously the experience is different between a workshop and the core semester program: gaining exposure to an international context over a semester or over a few weeks cannot be the same. I think that the two most important outcomes in a workshop are learning to work in a different context—which the Summer Institute will be particularly able to leverage—and learning to travel in a more autonomous fashion. It is good preparation for studying and living abroad, for which only a longer stay overseas could provide.

Still, it is a propitious time to be in Luxembourg at the time of the football (what only Americans call soccer) World Cup. Students can watch games on the TV of the Student Center (the Cave) during opening hours or go to the public viewings in Luxembourg City or on the Differdange market plaza. Our American students can live and feel the excitement of this global event as seen through the eyes of their European friends and neighbors. As the Luxembourgish national team does not compete, everybody supports one team or another (and sometimes more than one team) in an ambiance that is mostly festive and friendly, despite some complaints about public noise. It is a unique opportunity to experience the diversity of Luxembourg and cultural diversity in a nutshell.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean

Addi, Differdange...



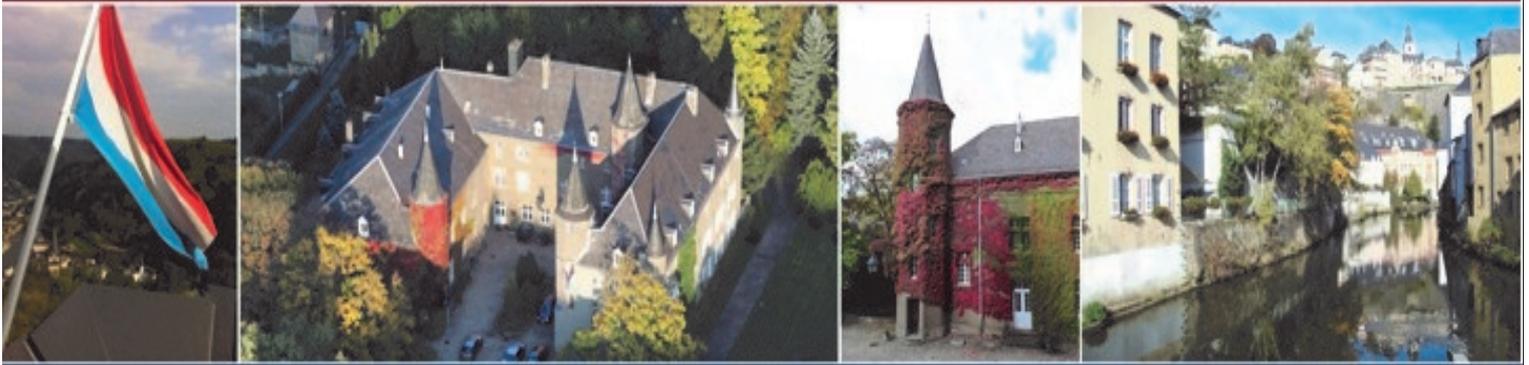
As we prepare to depart from Differdange to continue our travels in Switzerland and Italy, I realize the Chateau has already begun to feel like home. This past weekend, as my family I traveled back from our weekend sightseeing in Cologne, my son said,

"I can't wait to get back home to the Chateau!". In just 3 short weeks, we have settled in to life here in Luxembourg. We have already settled into a routine of shopping at Proxy, greeting the kind staff at San Marino for delicious pizza, and debating which kebabs are superior. We have finally mastered the train schedule, just in time for us to leave!

Our time at MUDEC has been truly wonderful. From the moment we arrived, everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. Dean Leterre showed our family to our beautiful (new!) apartment, Joseph patiently showed us how to work the high tech stove and explained how to setup the TV. Katie has been such a valuable resource, from the moment she met us at the airport to the very last day, she has answered all of our questions, given us helpful advice, worked with students to solve their problems, and has always been there for whatever we might need, big or small. I am so grateful to all of the wonderful people at MUDEC for their kindness and hospitality over the last 3 weeks.

As we pack up our suitcases, we have begun to experience a few "lasts"—our last class at the Chateau, our last train ride to Luxembourg City, our last gelato cone. Addi, MUDEC and Differdange....until next time!

Dr. Megan Gerhardt, taught at MUDEC in the 2014 FSB Lux Plus Program



The Week of June 16th, 2014

FSB First Year Select Weekend Field Trip!

Get ready to explore! This Friday the group will visit the Court of Justice of the European Union, tour Strasbourg, France and visit Germany's famous Black Forest!

Student Activities Website

Looking for more resources on public transportation?
Local resutrants? International travel & safety tips?
Browse the Student Activities Website:

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)

Laundry

The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUlaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

Want to get outside and enjoy the summer day?

Explore one of the many mine trails right in Differdange's back yard (an entrance to the trails is just up the hill diagonally left of the chateau)! Use the Château WIFI out on the lawn! Or borrow the sports equipment in Katie's office!

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**

Watch the FIFA World Cup from across the world!

- 6/16: 00:00 Argentina v. Bosnia & Herzegovina
18:00 Germany v. Portugal
21:00 Iran v. Nigeria
- 6/17: 00:00 US v. Ghana
18:00 Belgium v. Algeria
21:00 Brazil v. Mexico
- 6/18: 00:00 Russia v. Korea Republic
18:00 Netherlands v. Australia
21:00 Spain v. Chile
- 6/19: 00:00 Croatia v. Cameroon
18:00 Columbia v. Côte d'Ivoire
21:00 England v. Uruguay
- 6/20: 00:00 Japan v. Greece
18:00 Italy v. Costa Rica
21:00 Switzerland v. France
- 6/21: 00:00 Honduras v. Ecuador
18:00 Argentina v. Iran
21:00 Germany v. Ghana
- 6/22: 00:00 Nigeria v. Bosnia & Herzegovina
18:00 Belgium v. Russia
21:00 Korea Republic v. Algeria

Forget something?

You can check the local Delhaize grocery store across from Differdange's main park or take Bus 14 to the Luxembourgish superstore Cactus! Directions can be found on the Student Activities Website.

Next Monday, June 23rd is a National Holiday!

Luxembourg will be celebrating the Grand Duke's Official Birthday. While classes will continue as normal, due note that public transportation and local establishments will run on holiday schedules and the Château will close at 17:00. Be sure to check your bus times!

Méindes Blaaf

Méindes Blaaf "Monday Newsletter" – Summer 2014 n°6

June 23rd, 2014

The Day of Nations



Today, Luxembourg celebrates its national day. Festivities opened yesterday with a parade and a street festival in Differdange and impressive fireworks at night. The summery weather added a nice touch in a particularly appropriate fashion: Luxembourg has chosen June 23 as a national day for

specific climatic reasons. Initially, the holiday celebrates the Grand-Duke's birthday, thus reflecting the role of the monarchy in the country. In reality it reflects Luxembourgish pragmatism. Since 1961, the birthday of the Grand-Duke (or Grand-Duchess) is always celebrated on June 23 without consideration of the actual date of the birth of the monarch, or rather in consideration that the best homage to the Prince is a sunny one.

When is Independence Day?

Luxembourgers are not the only ones who faced a challenge with the date of their national day. When you receive an invitation from an official body of the United States of America to Independence Day, the correct formula is that the party is held "in celebration of the Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence". Read well: Americans do not celebrate the independence of the 13 colonies, but the day when it was written down in a Declaration and signed. Indeed, the colonies declared their independence on July 2, 1776 with the "Lee Resolution". This resolution was secret. The signing became a public act of independence. As much as the choice of June in Luxembourg reflects an inherent trait of the Luxembourgish people and its sense of adaptation, the choice of the 4th of July for the U.S. reveals the commitment to public administration and a taste for written documents that still characterize the American style of governance.

Is Bastille Day really about Bastille?

The French have also their peculiarities as regards to their national celebration (which is called, not surprisingly for a people who love partying, La Fête Nationale, or the "National Feast"). Americans have labelled it "Bastille Day" as for sure the 14th of July commemorates the day in 1789 when the revolutionaries took down the lugubrious Bastille, a fort serving as a prison in the center of Paris. However, when the French parliament in 1879 chose the date, some voiced concerns over commemorating the violence of the attack: two people gruesomely beheaded, some soldiers murdered, and about a hundred insurgents killed. Even though the English Ambassador of the time had written that it was "not much blood" in the days following the riot, it was still gore enough to send the wrong kind of message only 8 years after the Parisian massacres of the Commune. Fortunately, another July 14... saved the day. July 14, 1790 had been a day of celebration of the French unity. That is how Bastille Day became both the commemoration of the French Revolution and of the unity of the French people.

Doing without a holiday?

Some countries have such a radical a problem with a national day that they choose not to have one. It was the case of the former Federal Republic of Germany (also called "West Germany"). It commemorated instead the loss of its unity in June. Since 1990, Germany has October 3 as a national day, celebrating the day when the Popular Republic of Germany joined the Federal Republic of Germany, hence forming nowadays reunited Germany. Still, the German ethics of work led some to protest against a federal holiday and proposed that the national holiday be celebrated on a... Sunday, when nobody works anyway.

It would have been too bad: national holidays are fun, and in many countries they are happily shared moments of celebration for nationals and foreigners altogether.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, *MUDEC Dean.*



The Week of June 23rd, 2014

Saying good bye to the FSB First Year Select Program

The Farmer School program will now move on to Paris. A Friendly and heart felt "Bon Voyage" to them!

Feel like Hiking?

Contact Katie Grady

The Dolibois Center welcome Luxembourgish Big Bands for the 2014 Music Festival (Saturday June 21)



The Differdange Brass Band



Students from partner Tallage High School at the Welcome stand



Mayor Traversini (left) and Deputy Mayor Ulveling (center) visit Miami Campus with a delegation of 105 representatives from DifferdangeTwin Cities



Our Next Event:

**Friday July 4th,
2014 at 8PM:
Tibetan Cultural
Evening**

Tibetan Cultural Evening

Tibetan nomadic singing and presentation of Golog Support Foundation's development projects in rural Tibet



Xalsang
Tibetan musician



Aran Dolma
Tibetan singer



Venue:
Miami University Dolibois European Center,
Château de Differdange
1 Impasse du Château L-4524 Differdange

4th July 2014, 20h

📍 Avenue Charlotte, Differdange
🚉 Gare de Differdange

Suggested donation: 15€



www.gologsupport.lu
All proceeds from the event will support the Golog Support Foundation, ASBL

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Monday (National Holiday) : **8:00—17:00**
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A year in review...



Dear summer students,

It is my last column of the summer term, and as a matter of fact, my last column of the academic year. It is not time yet to say goodbye, but there are only a few days left in our program. You are probably packing and arranging for your plans for the rest of your summer. I want to

wish you the best for your future endeavors, whatever they might be. I also wanted to tell you that you have now to make choices for your future after and because of this experience in Luxembourg and in Europe. A few weeks is a short period. Hopefully it has been a meaningful one. You have probably discovered a lot—a little bit about Europe, a little bit about the world, and certainly a lot about yourselves. The choice that you face is now to make the most of it and to continue to discover, explore, and understand. May your decisions take you in the large circles of the world, work in different countries, dream of faraway places and have you go and explore them. If not, and it might even be better, may you regard your surroundings, what you call home, or "your place", as a faraway place in the light of your experience, and carry back from your short stay with us an ever new outlook on things and people even if they are the most familiar to you.

Dr. Thierry Leterre, MUDEC Dean



As MUDEC's 45th academic year comes to a close, we are grateful for all of those who helped celebrate and contribute to this milestone year. We have welcomed 330 new students through the doors of the Château with our fall, spring, summer, and first ever winter programs. We have benefitted from

the teachings of 15 new visiting and permanent professors. We were invited to share the homes of 5 new local host-families. And we were honored with a visit from both our President and Mrs. Hodge and His and Her Royal Highness, Prince Guillaume and Princess Stephanie.

Our students have crossed borders taking their learning outside of the classroom through Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland.

We have enjoyed and strengthened service partnerships with the local Maison Relais, Red Cross, La-sauvage Nature School, and the Saint Antoine Refugee Center. The Student Faculty Council hosted the first ever European International Quidditch event with neighboring teams from France, Belgium, and Germany. Marketing students this spring ran the social media campaign for the British Chamber of Commerce's Opportunity 2020, while the summer students participated with European students to "connect through culture" in the Transatlantic Dialogue.

Our students cheered alongside Luxembourg as the national team won their first World Cup qualifying football match, experienced musical performances by the Solistes Européens Luxembourg orchestra, visited the memorials of American soldiers from WWII's Battle of the Bulge, learned to cook Luxembourgish cuisine, shared American holiday traditions with our neighbors, represented Miami University in the Luxembourg College Fair, hosted a performance of an authentic Chinese Opera, hiked/biked/kayaked through Luxembourg's countryside, were able to visit international businesses on the kind invitation from Miami University alums/friends of the center (and so much more!)

Lastly, but felt most deeply, we lost our mentor, friend, and founding namesake Ambassador John E. Dolibois who will be remembered through each coming year of MUDEC celebrations.

Thank you to everyone for an incredible year!

Katie Grady, MUDEC Student Activities Coordinator

Our newsletter publication will resume with the start of our fall semester, yet MUDEC remains open across the summer to prepare for another action-packed year!



The Week of June 30th, 2014

This week we must say **“Au revoir!”** to the Dolibois Summer Program, but say **“Bonjour!”** to the Miami University Humanities Summer Research Institute who will conduct their seminar at MUDEC across the next two weeks!

Departure information

Be sure to check your flight information prior to your departure! You can take public transportation to the Luxembourg airport by using Bus 16 that departs frequently from the city train station. [See online for more details!](#)

Passport photo pickup

Our extra copies of your passport pictures are yours to take home! You can pick them up in Katie’s office any-time this week.

Laundry

Want to do a load of laundry before you go? The laundry machines in the Cave are available for your use. Purchase tokens from Katie or Crici (7 USD deducted from MUlaa) or see the door of the laundry room for more options.

It’s summertime!

Enjoy the summery Differdange weather! Explore the woods through one of the many mine trails, use the Château WIFI out on the lawn, or borrow the sports equipment in Katie’s office!

Final Dinner Celebration!

We could not end the Dolibois Summer Program without a final celebration!

Join us...

Tuesday, July 1st
for a delicious Couscous dinner
(a North African dish) at
Restaurant Sésame
in Florange, France

We will leave the Château at 6:15

Want to watch the FIFA World Cup?

Want to cheer for your favorite countries? You can use the TV in the cave or at some of the local establishments. Tune in this Tuesday at 10 pm for the USA match against neighboring Belgium!

Have great photos?

Want your awesome travel and European experience photos to be shared with future students? Send them to [us!](#)

Line 60 Train Work Resumes!

Starting at **22:15...**

from today through July 11th, there will be a shuttle bus replacing the train between Belval-Universite and Pétange. The shuttle bus will pick up and drop off in Differdange just past the traffic circle at the Arbed bus stops.

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Continuing your travels?

Be sure to sign up with the US Embassy’s STEP program for up to date alerts and information when traveling! See [online!](#)