

the **INSIDER**

#7(121) 2012 Stockholm School of Economics in Riga

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Cheers, everyone!

The last issue it is. Sad. Happy. A bit emptied. Hoping to stay in your memories. We have a bit mixed feelings right now, it is always difficult to let the thing you nurtured and put soul into go... However, we let it go into reliable hands, which assures us that our Insider, the fruit of our hard work, creative thinking and a lot-lot more, will be taken care of. There were a lot of happy moments, a lot of challenging ideas, a lot of mistakes and a lot of work - we will remember all this for a long time for sure. We would like to thank everyone who supported our work in any way - our sponsors, writers, our photographer, interviewees, critics. Without you the Insider wouldn't have become what it did. It's been pleasure to work for you.

Insiderly yours,
Always,
Tanya, Irena, Olja, Viktoria

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Mission Impossible

Last night I watched Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol. As I presume everyone knows the main character is played by Tom Cruise who is about the same age as me, a fact which often leads people to confuse him with me.

His job takes him to places such as Moscow, Dubai and Mumbai – not exactly the same happens when I grade exam papers although I nevertheless at times get a feeling of Mission Impossible: Say, I grade a paper and give it X. The student who did the paper will then come to me with a feeling that the grade should have been Y and, needless to say, $Y \gg X$. I have never fully managed to resolve this difference in perception. Let's see what happens later today when I open my office door for yet another $Y < X$ discussion – perhaps it will create material for Mission Impossible: The Grade Protocol.

PS This column will self-destruct in five seconds!

PPS Just to show off: If you have seen the above-mentioned movie you will know that some spectacular scenes take place in (and not least on) the tallest building in the world, Burj Khalifa, in Dubai. When they shot those scenes I was actually in the building as a tourist.

SA Letter

Dear all,

So the term for this Student Association is over. We've had many happy moments, and also some stressful moments, a lot of work and joy. Even though our "era" is coming to an end, we are still here for the students and continue helping the next board, finalizing our projects etc. We really hope that the next board will have the same fantastic experience as we did. There is nothing to compare it with - working together with wonderful people for a year, going through good and bad times... Even though this year, for some reason, the competition for the SA positions has not been as wild as last year, there are still many promising candidates. I hope that all of you will make the right decision when voting for the new SA board. Vote for those who are the most hardworking and have a big sense of responsibility, because these two characteristics are the most important when it comes to being a member of the SA board.

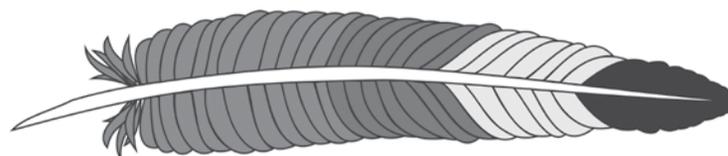
Also, don't forget to come and celebrate the end of the year on the 21st of December where the election results will be announced! (Register right now because there is a limited amount of places. Find out more on SSER SA Facebook page!)

Best regards,

Anu Kalmurand & The SA board



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Junior Peak Time 2012 Finals are finally over!

On November 17-18 SSE Riga was occupied by JPT'12. 40 best high-school students from 7 different countries came to listen to Guest Lectures, make new friends and compete for the main prize – 500 EUR.

Event is over, we have already received the first feedback from the finalists and to tell the truth it was a great joy to hear such pleasant comments!

We did it, but not without help! Organizing Team would like to give a special thanks to our General Sponsor – Annele as well as other sponsors of the event: Ernst & Young, Ecogen, Coffee Inn, Vytautas, Unilever, Fazer, AXA, SMS Credit, E-klase, UPS and Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Student Association.

Without those people the event wouldn't be challenging and interesting: Jury members – Inga Latkovska, Eglė Eidukevičiūtė, Kristaps Siliņš, Annija Krūzīte, Kipras Kazlauskas, Glen Grant, Julija Koršunova and Guest Speakers – Glen Grant, Andrius Jakučionis, Kristaps Siliņš, Fred Hrenchuk.

Also special thanks to all who helped to manage the Final event itself - compadres, and associates! This year we had the best associates, without whom the event wouldn't happened!

To read more about how JPT went on – have a look at JPT article.

Huge thanks to all who stayed with us and see you at Junior Peak Time 2013!!!

Best wishes in the upcoming year,
Junior Peak Time 2012 Organizing Team



SSE RIGA DEBATE SOCIETY

The event of the month, SSE Riga & LMT IV is coming, and in the second weekend of December the School will be occupied with debaters from all over Europe. We wish luck to all of them in the competition for the Champion title, but hope that current Y2s and Y1s will be defending the colours of the School with special passion.

They say that upcoming SSE Riga & LMT IV promises to be the biggest the Baltics ever seen (60 teams and 170 people overall)...so Estonians, you still have to catch up :)



Days of Opportunities team is congratulating everybody with the end of the first semester and wishes all the best. It was the time of long hours spent in the library studying, challenging tasks solved in a several nights and fresh ideas expressed in your reports and case studies. We truly believe that during that period you got a lot of exciting, valuable skills to put in your CV and personal statement, which will help the employer faster to understand that exactly you are the one he or she is searching for.

We wish you to celebrate the New Year well, and achieve better academic results in the upcoming year, as well as want you to develop your business community even more and participate on April 4th in the event of DoO 2013 with your unbeatable CV's and Motivational letters.

From our side we wanted to ensure you, that we are doing all the best, and our juniors have already gathered one third of all the companies planned, found a couple of guest speakers and are ready to work even harder.

Always Caring,
Days of Opportunities team



180Degrees
CONSULTING

Hello fellows,
Christmas holidays are approaching and it is time for us to draw up the results 180 Degrees Consulting has achieved after first semester of operation!

The previous month was one of the most challenging and hard working for the executive board. We managed to have a record high number of board meetings and devoted a lot of time to plan our activities in the upcoming semester. We have started active negotiation process with the clients and have already completed one project brief. This ensures us that in the spring semester our consultants will have organizations to work with. In order to start building a theoretical background, two training sessions for consultants were held. During these workshops participants got acquainted with McKinsey consulting methodology.

November was a very important period for developing the branch and gradually switching from administrative issues to practical consulting experience. 180 Degrees Consulting Riga branch is developing and we are sure that it will soon become mature and successful.

We wish you wonderful Christmas holidays full of magic and joy and let's turn thing 180 Degrees together!

Sincerely yours,
180 Degrees Consulting Executive Board



Dear all,

The biggest holidays of winter are just around the corner and so is the end of the fall semester. Everybody seems to be putting final dots on their works, putting together the Christmas wish list and getting ready to enjoy the free time from studies.

However, for us the action is at its peak. The application for Peak Time 2012 will start in less than a month, thus a promotion is at its fullest. The preparatory work has been done- the video will be up soon, the poster as well, and the university list is ready so that we would be able to bring Peak Time across the borders. Moreover, this year is special since we have a special forces consisting of our associates, who will help us to reach even bigger audience than before. We hope this will help to increase the number of participants even more and help the competition grow.

We wish you a warm and cosy Christmas with your loved ones. Enjoy the winter break to its fullest.

Very best,

Peak Time 2013 team



Dear Students,

Organizational greetings from Leif Mutén Society to all students and staff and we sincerely hope you've been enjoying the first semester, which is about to end. We are happy to announce that first merit students have been given the possibility to participate in conferences in the Netherlands and South Africa. This is to show that if students display activity, then LMS is more than happy to support them in financing the costs of the trip.

In addition, currently we're looking for new sponsors to fund even more student activities and who knows, maybe one day even the efforts of the best TAs will not go unnoticed.

To conclude, Leif Mutén Society wishes everybody a pleasant and relaxing Christmas break, because the second semester is going to be tough and energy has to be recharged.



The iFund has continued with giving seminars to Y1s on various subjects, however, now comes the part when they need to use the knowledge practically. iFund announced an annual Gold Challenge for Y1s so that they can analyse the commodity market on their own.



The time of the year full of snowstorms and gusty winds that make you chilled to the bone, as well as fluffy snowflakes and fun in the snow, has finally fallen upon us. While the nature slows down into hibernation, the BEFS team is doing just the contrary - pushing forward at full speed.

This year we are planning to improve on the lessons learned from previous events (as banal as that may sound). The main course of actions follows one guideline - bigger is better. To attract a bigger pool of possible participants, as well as sponsors and lecturers, this year we will have a much structured and comprehensive marketing strategy. One of such promotional events will be presentations at different universities. Thus we will be able to dive right into the dens of our possible applicants and pull them out of their winter hibernation.

Have nice holidays,

BEFS organizing team



Hola, my dear friends!

Happy Hanukkah, Christmas, Nicklaus Tag and peace in the upcoming New Year! For the last months we have been planning the schedule of the next year events. During the January and February you will see young juniors helping to fundraise. In the March you will have an opportunity to attend one of our guest lectures and participate in a workshop. However, in the middle of May do not forget to check our lovely SSE Riga during the Night of the Museums.

By the end of December we are planning to arrange weekly art news updates on our facebook page, please, do not be shy and fill our surveys, read our news and check for the latest posts.

Best Wishes,

Yours JeJoue



The time has come!!! We (Julius & Justas) are counting our last days as the hosts of Pause.MovieTime and soon we will be looking for a new movie-guy/girl or a couple :) So, get ready for our "swan song" and right after that - PAUSE.MOVIETIME ELECTION 2012!!!

DEBATE SOCIETY ADVENTURES

Three IV's shook up our Society this semester. Let's look at what it was like! Hear hear!

OXFORD IV

"Do you have a minute?" it was 3:15 meaning my statistics seminar had already started and I was late, as usual.

"Yes, sure," I responded looking into deeply concerned Dasha's eyes.

"The problem is," she continued, "that it is very likely that Victoria and me are not going to get our visas". Their flight was the next day, and because the embassy hadn't even started making visas, there was no chance they would make it on time.

After 5 hours of various calls to RyanAir, Terravision and zillion other places it was clear - I was going to Oxford IV debate tournament. Tomorrow.

The journey started really well:

Edgaras, Tadas and Jekabs were already in England since Thursday, and Kalvis, Peteris and Cristina and me came on Friday. It was a pleasant change to come from stormy Riga to sunny London. Oxford was as impressive as one might think: old buildings resembling Hogwarts, surprisingly nice weather and good British food (well... at least a lot of it and for free).

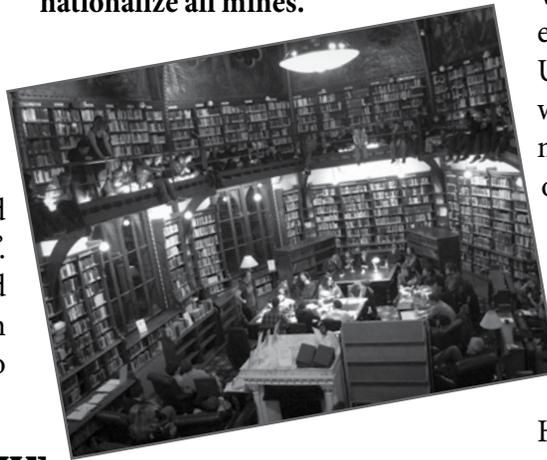
After half an hour of explaining why Peteris is not Natallia, we finally got in Oxford Union's debate chamber to see the formal Thursday evening debate "This house believes in God". As the tradition goes, the audience had to decide the outcome of the 6 professors' debate by going out through the left or the right side of

the door. The opposition won only by a few 'Noyes'.

After getting so much inspiration, it was time to start the tournament. The first day greeted us with surprisingly common motions:

R1: THBT Google, YouTube & Social Media websites should remove content, which it deems to insult religions.

R2: THBT South Africa's ANC should nationalize all mines.



"THE IMITABLE BEAUTY OF THE UNION LIBRARY"

Interestingly, most of the 15-minute time allocated for preparation was spent on foot walking around Oxford colleges and searching for the right room in the right college. This was not the most interesting experience, however. Tadas and I got to debate in the corridor. Twice. And debates were stopped in the middle. Twice.

What could be better than being stopped just before moving to your next argument?

However, the organizers promised to make it up for the chaos of the first day by socials with an endless amount of drinks. Prepared (or how to say, warmed up) and ready to spend a night discussing life with the greatest debaters, we went out in a search of a social that was promised. To our surprise, we didn't find it! "Perhaps the debaters decided to rest till the next day," we thought to

ourselves.

Second day in debate terms was a bit more surprising:

R3: THBT 'Western' Governments should buy the freedom of slaves.

R4: THBT the Greek military should suspend democratic government until economic recovery.

R5: THBT companies should not take public stances on gay rights issues.

While some were sleeping, some enjoyed the imitable beauty of the Union library and semis. Debaters were speaking about books and making tasteful jokes about each other, which made it even more interesting to watch.

Our expectations for the last night were really high. What is LMT & SSE Riga's Debate Society better known for than partying? However, Oxford decided to surprise us once again: last night's social was a silent disco. While people seemed to enjoy it, we tried to pretend to enjoy it.

A bit disappointed, we went out in a search of a real club with loud music, but we learnt that everything in Oxford closes at 2 a.m. So, exceptionally, no good parties for SSE Riga debaters in Oxford.

However, Oxford left an overall great impression, hence from all the surprises and lessons learnt we could conclude:

THW go to Oxford IV anytime.

CAMBRIDGE IV

The Cambridge IV was definitely one of those experiences where you meet new people and "re-meet" the old. The trip definitely makes up for the screwed up micro final exam, which took place right after it.

I thought I had seen patriotic people in my life, but Cambridge brought quite a surprise. A small group of

Irish supporters with a large green flag easily



Susanna and our Debate Society for such an awesome event!

Even though the tournament's chief adjudicator was supposed to be a prominent English debater Catherine Murphy, it happened so that she had an exam on the day of the competition and jumped out of the boat couple of days before the competition.

"NO GOOD PARTIES FOR SSE RIGA IN OXFORD"

out-yelled the other four hundred people in the main Chamber of the union house every time when it was an Irish debater's turn to address the case. All the loud cheering during the tournament was well deserved, as the finalists clearly demonstrated that they had mastered the art of grabbing the entire audience in their favour and ingeniously ridiculing their opponents with wild laughter following from the audience. It is this type of an experience that sparks up a burning desire in one to learn to do the same.

Adding to the list of things alien to me, there were some of the people's accents in England. When we were boarding our bus from the airport to Cambridge, I was the last to get on the bus and upon handing my luggage over to the bus driver, he asked me, "Goin-a-shitty-shonta?" Not being sure whether he had just insulted me or asked me where I was going to, I nodded, got on the bus, and couldn't resist asking, "What the hell did he just ask me?". Apparently, that was his way of asking "Are you going to the city center"?

So **SSE RIGA & LMT IV 2012** has just finished and it was just a brilliant and perfectly organized event! There were no major delays or any other significant problems, which happens pretty rarely in a debating competition based on my debating experience. So congratulations to

However, new adjudication team was found immediately and it all turned to be a great success!

Various issues were debated such as whether government should fund an identity change of infamous prisoners and whether we should ban political polls before the election. And of course, you don't have a decent debating tournament without debating about gays, so this time we debated about whether gay right movements should fight for marriage equality or for total abolition of it.

After 3 rounds of debating the first day of the tournament ended with dinner and a lounge party at the university. Everyone was welcome and some people outside of the debating circle indeed came to the party, but were fast to leave since the idea of the party without dancing didn't look very appealing to them. But hey, nobody is perfect, right?

The morning started with some (mostly Lithuanian) teams being late and Susanna being pissed off at them, but one by one everyone came and everything started to move. After last 2 preliminary rounds of debating everyone went to have lunch while at

the same time nervously waiting for the announcement of who got to the semi-finals. As you can imagine we were very happy to see that 2 SSE Riga teams broke the long-lasting curse of our teams not getting to our tournament's semi-finals!

And so 8 teams continued for another round of debates and opportunity to get to the Grand Finals. While 1 SSE Riga team didn't get to the finals, another one did! However, other teams proved to be stronger and one Swedish team deservedly got the title of the best team in SSE Riga & LMT IV. Immediately after the announcement and closing talk by the organizers everyone proceeded with a party at Paddy's.

And even though our Debate Society didn't win the tournament this year, seeing how Y1s are developing their skills and keeping in mind that Y2s are not going to stop improving as well, we could confidently say that next year our society will be ready to win SSE Riga IV 2013!



Auguste & Martins & Edgaras



EXCHANGE MYTH BUSTERS: CONTINUED

The year has finished, which means that most of our exchange students are soon coming back from their dream destinations. It also means that the time of choosing whether to go on exchange and where for current Year2's is approaching. However, do all of you know that on our partner universities' list there are unis from such countries as Argentina, Korea, Colombia and Azerbaijan? We tried to get stories from current and previous students who made a choice of a less trivial destination than most of us do. Let's enjoy them, and to be continued in the next issue!

Vytautas Jakštys, Tanzania

1. Do you feel the difference of cultures? What are peculiar qualities of locals?

Sure. They don't have personal boundaries. It is completely normal to go into a random house and have a chat with people living there (you are often invited, but maybe it's because of the skin color...) If you ask for directions, they always know the answer, doesn't matter which way. If they know the right way, they will take you there. Doesn't matter how far it is. They have ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD. Being late for an hour or two is absolutely normal; doing nothing (lying in a bed or sitting on a chair) is normal for a whole day. Also, many people very strongly believe in God, either Christian or Muslim, so you have to think what you say and how you dress. The discussions, though, are really interesting. I could go on and on...

2. How do you like the studies in comparison with SSE Riga?

What studies?

3. What is the best thing about your new university? The worst one?

The worst – safety. Never ever has anyone had physical threats, but some phones and money were stolen. I was lucky, but some weren't. They strike quite a lot, there was even a riot, so we (exchange students) were advised not to leave the dorms for

a couple days. Huge bureaucracy as well. Patience is the key for anything to happen. The best – people. Totally different views of the world, interesting discussions, habits... Also, new experience of living in different conditions; 12 m2 (around) for 2 people, those rare times of no water



or electricity, or both... Really puts you out of the comfort zone one is used to. For others it might be a bad thing, though.

4. Are living costs high? Do you cover all expenses by scholarship?

No, I did not get scholarships. There is a cafeteria where I used to eat breakfast and lunch, and for dinner we would usually go to a bar or restaurant. All together (with a little bit of travelling, clubs, beach vacation for Christmas & New Year, etc) I didn't spend more than 250 LVL per month. Dorms is 300 USD per semester.

5. Is it easy to travel there? Do you travel a lot?

It is possible; however, one has to

be ready for a totally different travelling experience. Buses are crowded, tickets are oversold, trips take long (terrible roads), etc. Trains are not advisable at all; you can get stuck for days. Patience and realizing that the cultures are different help. I didn't travel much – in terms of new experiences the city (Dar Es Salaam) has plenty to offer.

6. Which travel destination abroad or within the country would you advise to try out for future exchanges?

Tanga - really beautiful town with caves, market, etc. Morogoro - a cool place close by to the university for

“THEY HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD” hiking, awesome views. And then there are safari trips, climbing Kilimanjaro, going to Tanganika lake,

where there still are people who haven't seen people with white skin - small villages, tribes, etc. Just be creative and don't use much of travel office suggestions – real experience is going like locals do.

7. What can you suggest to future exchange students?

Go there with your eyes open. It is not at all about the studies; it's all about being there and then. Try things, talk to people. Go out randomly and speak with people on the street. Some will know a bit of English. If you don't know how to start – pick a “favourite” premier league football club, and you can start discussions immediately.

Erko Risthein, Turkey

1. Do you feel the difference of cultures? What are peculiar qualities of locals?

The cultural difference is huge. 99% of the population is Muslim so they have a different set of values than we do in the Baltics. Six times a day you can hear a loud chanting coming from the mosques that are located all over the city. This is called the ezan which is a call to prayer. It comes through a loud speakerphone and you can hear it everywhere. This shows that religion is very important here in Turkey. Quite in contrast with Estonia, which is, statistically, the least religious country in the world.

2. How do you like the studies in comparison with SSE Riga?

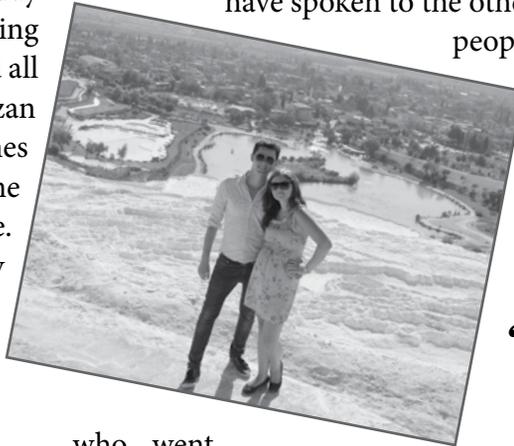
The studies are not challenging at all. In fact, writing the bachelor thesis and completing the Research Methods III assignments takes up more of my time than the studies in the local university. I only go to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and I get 27 credit points for that. I also signed up for two English courses, but I don't attend the lectures because the teacher's spoken English is so grammatically incorrect it is sometimes hard to understand what she is trying to say. The English courses give me 6 extra credit points. So in total, I get 33 credit points by going to school only two days a week.

3. What is the best thing about your new university? The worst one?

The campus is huge, one of the biggest ones in Turkey. It consists of all the

faculties, the library, sports facilities, and the student village. There are restaurants and even a hospital in the campus area. It's around 4 km to walk from one end of the campus to the other.

However, as I stated earlier, the studies are not very challenging. I have spoken to the other people



who went on exchange and it seems to be pretty common to most of the exchange universities. So don't expect to be intellectually challenged.

4. Are living costs high? Do you cover all expenses by scholarship?

Generally, living is cheap. Rent is cheap, utilities are cheap and food is really cheap. The only thing expensive here is alcohol. And by expensive I mean a bottle of beer (0.5L, 5%) costs nearly 2 euros in a shop. 2-3 times as much in a bar.

The scholarship covers most of the expenses. Flight tickets, visa costs, rent and basic food. Anything extra (alcohol, traveling, and clothes) comes from your own pocket.

5. Is it easy to travel there? Do you travel a lot?

Travelling is cheap and easy. However, you have to consider that the student visa that you get is a single entry visa. In other words, you cannot exit the country before you get your living permit here. And getting your living

permit is very time consuming. I received mine 1.5 months after entering Turkey. Therefore, I haven't had much of a chance to travel to the nearby countries.

6. Which travel destination abroad or within the country would you advise to try out for future exchanges?

Istanbul is a no-brainer. Also, Pamukkale, Cesme, Alanya are just some of the places worth visiting in Turkey. You can also take a boat to some of the Greek islands like Chios or take a plane to Northern Cyprus.

7. What can you suggest to future exchange students?

“TURKEY IS A COUNTRY FOR PEOPLE WHO ENJOY CULTURAL SHOCKS”

Turkey is a country for people who enjoy culture shocks. When you come here, expect things to be slower, inefficient and sometimes even illogical. Understand that this is Turkey and don't try to force things your way.

Also, if you love great food, COME TO TURKEY. Turkish cuisine is incredible. You can find the most amazing food at a reasonable price. There are literally over a hundred local restaurants located near the school campus. Also, if you go to the Bazaar, you can find 1 kilo of almost any fruit or vegetable for 1 Turkish lira. At the current exchange rate this is around 0.4 EUR.



“IF YOU LOVE GREAT FOOD - COME TO TURKEY”

Kristina Malūkaitė, Portugal

1. Do you feel the difference of cultures? What are peculiar qualities of locals?

You can feel the difference by talking with laid back people who leave everything for tomorrow, listening Brazilian samba rhythms and having a glass or a bottle of wine at any random place for any random occasion. Portugal is simply very Latin, very open and full of passion whatever you would be doing.

2. How do you like the studies in comparison with SSE Riga?

It is laid back. It is not like you sit and do nothing,

but level is definitely not as challenging and intensive as back in Riga. The new thing for us here is the exams and midterm exams sessions. But it is manageable if you make friends with people who attend lectures and take good notes. Other than that, 10 page reports and Morten style open question exams should not be too scary.

3. What is the best thing about your new university? The worst one?

I would definitely say the people - lecturers, course mates and Brazilians, and the fact that everyone knows that you are an ERASMUS student. A lot of events and activities, nice buddies to keep you busy and help out with everything. Oh, and also the coolest traditions of freshman baptizing and funny Harry Potter style uniforms students wear here.



3. Are living costs high? Do you cover all expenses by scholarship?

Living costs are similar to the ones in Riga, just wine is much cheaper and much better. What makes difference is the activities you choose. If you want to travel outside the country, party a couple times a week and do some other fun stuff you might need to chip in from your own pocket. But if you are ready to go on pasta, chicken and wine diet, you should be fine and not blow up your entire budget.

4. Is it easy to travel there? Do you travel a lot?

It is beyond easy... Just join one of ESN organized trips and visit the nicest places within the country.

Or as in my case, good location of Porto city and convenient train network allows you to see at least half of the Portugal and spend under 20 euros. And of course there is Ryanair which can take you wherever you wish. We try to get out of Porto every weekend just to explore what's out there.

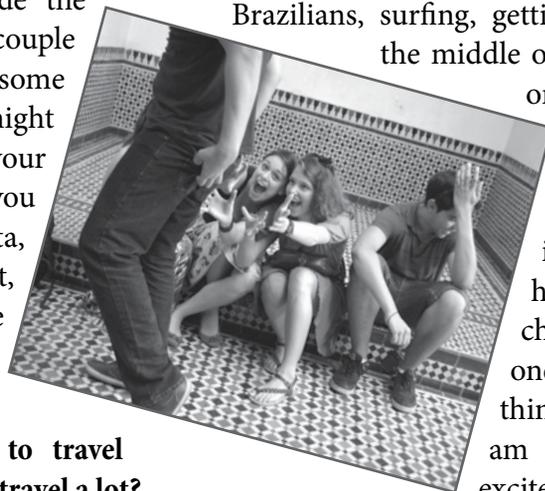
5. Which travel destination abroad or within the country would you advise to try out for future exchanges?

There are so many. Definitely everyone should start by exploring Porto itself and little towns around it as Guimaraes, Aveiro, Coimbra and then Aveiro and Madeira or Azores... Outside the country one should not miss a chance to go to Barcelona and Valencia in Spain, definitely get to Africa in Morocco and ride a camel to the desert and many more. All the places here are awesome and full of cool things to do and see. Just point

the finger on a map.

6. Tell us please the most exciting story happened to you during your exchange program.

Every day is a new adventure. From the first partying experience with Brazilians, surfing, getting lost in the middle of the town



or barely making a plane home. It is probably hard to choose only one specific thing. But I am definitely excited about the upcoming Portugal Road trip planned for the Christmas period.

“EVERY DAY IS A NEW ADVENTURE”

8. What can you suggest to future exchange students?

If you have any doubts choosing to go on exchange or not, just do it. It is one of the best things you can do and even though you will not party with our friends or soak up the knowledge of the best professionals in the Baltics, there is so many more things you will gain during your semester abroad.

Best time here. For sure.



Dasha



INTERVIEW WITH DEIVIDAS TUMAS

Deividas, could you please share your McKinsey experience? How did you decide to work for them?

I chose consulting as a career path due to the experience you can gain in a fairly short period. Moscow was a good shortcut to reach a global international company, such as McKinsey or Boston Consulting Group, to work for. The majority of students dream about working in London. However, it is easier to get into local office, where competition is not as high. I knew that London offices are flooded with tones of CVs not only from Eastern European representatives, but India and China as well. The competition is very tough over there. Moscow is a vibrant city, an amazing place to live for a while, and presents an amazing spectrum of career opportunities for MBAs. The Russian language is a prerequisite. My admission was a sort of exception as I was pretty bad at Russian at that time.



What kind of people fit McKinsey profile best?

First of all, analytical skills are the main requirement. The whole selection process will concentrate on your problem solving abilities and fast decision making. During the case interviews, your personality and the way you behave may be taken into account, but are less significant. If you can crack the cases confidently, you have good chances to be admitted. One more thing, you should understand that McKinsey is not always about proactive and communicative people. On the contrary to popular belief, many of the consultants are introverts, smart number crunching geeks.

“Prepare in advance. Knowledge of MECE concept and the ability to take fast decisions is crucial.”

Does McKinsey practice stress interviews?

Generally, interviewer does not intend to make an interview stressful. It mostly depends on the personality of an engagement manager who is running your case interview. They might seem aggressive, but they do not really intend to be. Personally, I see no point in a stress interview. The only thing it does is to make the interviewer nervous and shaky. I myself have once had the stress interview experience. Even though I have passed it, I refused to go to the second round. I would add that it might be paradoxical but stress interviews are more often practised by smaller companies who do not yet have a strong position.

Was it difficult for you to crack McKinsey case interview?

When I came to McKinsey case interview, I was already prepared enough. I have practised a lot and have even asked my consultant friends to conduct trial interviews with me. Everything comes with experience and preparations. You have to crack at least 10-15 cases before the real interview. This was my formula of success.

Why McKinsey?

Actually, I was applying for several places and got admitted to BCG and McKinsey at the same time. I still remember the last case at the BCG interview. They asked me to name the reasons why I was the best candidate to be accepted. I thought I was pretty good in the description of myself; I even managed to come up with a framework for going about this question. Then I asked the manager to evaluate my answer on a scale from 1 to 10. Guess what? He gave me 4 (the average was 3). Nevertheless, I have got the offer from BCG. With two job offers from the leading companies I spent the hardest 30 days weighting pros and cons, and eventually went for McKinsey.

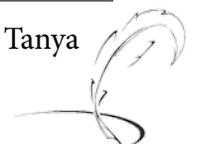
Is there any opportunity for SSE Riga students to get an internship at McKinsey?

McKinsey is a realistic destination but only upon graduation. Generally, the company does not take undergraduate students into consideration until they have graduated. Having a bachelor degree is a minimum requirement. But Y2 may try their chance to apply next year. McKinsey Moscow is aware of what SSE Riga is and would be happy to get applicants from our school.



P.S. Take Moscow McKinsey as an opportunity for future growth and see you in the list of applicants next year.

Tanya



A PIECE OF NONSENCE

What drives a person to do research? Is it curiosity, call of duty, or a remedy for boredom? Most likely, all three of them are. But how can one justify the reasons for conducting research on something uncorrelated? In some cases authors' absurdity

(or innovativeness if you wish) is limitless, so the topics may sound insane. On the other hand, an explorer can dig into something indeed serious, though funny as it may seem, but actually value-adding and insightful. For most of us (sorry, Y1s) such subjects as Econometrics and Market Research provided a necessary toolkit for analysing a market, a segment, reasonableness

of strategy implementation or differences in consumer behaviour. We are also aware of the fact that spurious correlations may occur, meaning that two events, not having direct causality, may be wrongly considered as interconnections. Therefore, I have the pleasure of bringing to your notice a top-nine list of the most ludicrous research ever.

3. More information than you ever wanted: does Facebook bring out the green-eyed monster of jealousy? (Cyberpsychology and Behavior)

This one is dedicated to the most effusive plague of our century – Facebook. Well, jealousy can be caused by viewing one's status, reading a comment or noticing an update. But the feeling of envy may later result in hatred, which is much more destructive for a person's wellbeing. Consider that!

1. The nature of navel fluff: (Medical Hypotheses)

Where does navel fluff come from? This question triggered the minds of many knowledgeable people. Access and read it, please!

7. Optimising the sensory characteristics and acceptance of canned cat food: use of a human taste panel. (Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition)

I believe the Whiskas shareholders would be more than happy if they expanded their target audience! A human taste panel did not tell about the specifically preferred flavours, but ensured that canned cat food might have been used while making pasta.

9. Effects of cocaine on honeybee dance behaviour. (Journal of Experimental Biology)

At the first sight, the title looks hilarious; however, the scientists put a lot of effort to demonstrate that mammalian and invertebrate responses to cocaine do not differ a lot.

8. Swearing as a response to pain. (NeuroReport)

Although this heading would better fit an instructive brochure for minors, it was primarily meant for distinguishing pain tolerance towards swear words across genders.

5. The "booty call": a compromise between men's and women's ideal mating strategies. (The Journal of Sex Research)

Psychologists like fancy formulations in their studies. So do sexologists. The authors hypothesize about the relevance of having sex on a schedule, separate checks at restaurants and the "balance of powers" in the fridge.

4. Intermittent access to beer promotes binge-like drinking in adolescent but not adult Wistar rats. (Alcohol)

A couple of environmentally unconscious researchers tortured adult and adolescent Wistar rats testing the exposure to alcohol (beer) on them and found out that "youngsters" are more vulnerable to long-term brain changes following alcohol abuse. What's about people?



Andrei



In total,
87 articles
were edited and
published in 7 issues

Out of all
pieces of gossip
sent, **41%** were
published, including
the ones about editors.
We are the least
censoring editorial
team of the Insider!

**IN 2012
WE WERE
WITH
YOU!**





18 interviews
were conducted by editors and
writers

Ana Efros,
Nastya Muravjova,
Masha Odineca,
you mean a lot to us! Thanks for
your constant input

During the year, **38**
writers were trying **hard**
to make the most captivating
and informative articles **for**
you!

The person who
wrote articles for **every**
single issue of the Insider
run by our team is **Andrei**
Romancenco

Among interviewees,
there were **Minister**
of Economics, **President**
of Alumni Association,
Ait Si Mhamed Ali (Morocco);
Bill Evans (**Japan**), Arvydas
Ziobakas (**Ernst&Young**),
Aleksejs Krečetovs (**ICBS**),
Deividas Tumas (**INSEAD**)/
McKinsey

Archive on the Insider
web site was filled with
20 best articles that will
remain in the **history** of
organisation

We made each
writer's face stay
in the history with the
great help of **Marija**
Grjazniha



THE BEST IDEAS OF LOE

This year the freshmen are showing themselves as very creative future economists/ entrepreneurs. The LOE course is helping them to take their ideas to a higher level and develop their business vision.

During the 20 LS experiment different teams came up with many ideas, some of which fell far from the teams' expectations and were stopped, while others became unexpectedly successful. A couple of weeks ago many new teams were formed with a task to make companies that would be able to exist and bring some profit till February. Some teams continued developing their previous idea further, but most of them came up with brand new solutions for this task.

So here are some of the most creative projects of Year 1's!

Bears Drinking Beer:

This is a company that found the future in beer production. It has one of the most surprising ideas but also one of the most promising ones. At the moment they are having meetings with other beer producers to get some useful suggestions for their business. Who knows, maybe, after some time they will be in Latvian Forbes as one of the successful small brewery companies.

Smoose:

An idea created during the 20 LS experiment is being developed even further. This group of students came up with a solution for those people who often experience inconveniences finding their earphones tangled and having many knots after they have been put into a bag or a pocket. An earphone spool will solve this annoying problem. This product is made out of organic glass and has a

pretty neat design. It seems to be a high-quality product and is cheaper than anything similar available in the Internet.

Five wheels:

These people came up with an amazing idea that could help many young mothers. They designed a hat for children, which has a luminescent thread in it. During daytime it will look just like a simple hat with a cute design, but in the evening and at night it will reflect all the light and everyone in the street will be able to see that there's a kid there. And yet another benefit, if a mother tends to lose her kid in the dark, then she can easily find him with this wonderful hat. ;)

Everlight:

The idea of the team EVERLIGHT (which consists of 5 creative girls) is to offer handmade, customized candles that can create a pleasant and soothing atmosphere. Cafes, restaurants, even someone's dining room can be changed with the help of this stylish accent. The feature which distinguishes EVERLIGHT in the crowd of other candles' manufacturers is their special handmade candles that are created especially to suit the interior design of any particular place. By offering their clients different kinds of candles, made upon their order, EVERLIGHT make sure that every client is satisfied and their policy of bringing something beautiful and unique to the market comes hand-in-hand. They are thinking of creating themed candles for special occasions such as Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. Currently, original girls are focusing on a personal approach,

which they strongly believe can create an auspicious relationship with their customers.

“They say that if the products fulfill the team's expectations, Agnese Kleina, a well-known Latvian fashion blogger and chief editor of the magazine “Deko”, will mention some of the products in her blog whimsicalagnesiga.com”

Artish:

The team named ARTISH saw their potential and determination in relation of one of the team members to the fashion industry. Thus, as we could guess, inspiration is somewhere near...The idea itself consists in creating uniquely designed clothes, converting them from “second hand”. The main concept of ARTISH team's brand “LĀCIS” (Latvian - bear) is a mixture of vintage clothes with the latest high fashion. ARTISH tries to follow tendencies and changes in trends of the fashion world! At the moment, the team is working on their own clothing catalogue. Besides, these young entrepreneurs are creating designs for their collections and seeking specialists for applying them. They already have some prototypes done, so we are looking forward to see their masterpieces!



Paula & Sabina



PEOPLE AROUND US - WHO ARE THEY?

I know that it is cold outside and almost everything is white; however, do not forget that all of us are very colourful. Let's continue the process of getting to know each other better. Enjoy! :)

Questions:

- 1) The best present which you have ever got.
- 2) Your most altruistic action/movement.
- 3) Your promise for the next year.

Linda Stiebrina (Y1)

- 1) Every year on Christmas I receive knitted socks from grandma.
- 2) I helped raised money for the less fortunate so they would have happy Christmas as well.
- 3) I promise to spend more time with my family and friends.

Gediminas Užkuraitis (Y2)

- 1) A careless, free day in London for my birthday this year with great company.
- 2) Once I've argued about this for hours, ever since then I believe there is no such thing as altruistic.
- 3) Create something entirely new after Finance, be it a business, an organization, a competition...

Artūrs Cāns (Y2)

- 1) Miks Martinsons' mother.
- 2) Unnoticeably letting Miķelis (Y2) win me in foosball (sorry, bro, that's the Truth!).
- 3) To keep my immature attitude when I'm with my friends, but have a much more serious attitude to my professional life.

Kristine Priedite (Y2)

- 1) Week in Paris.
- 2) Work in an orphanage.
- 3) To pass Financial Economics!!!

Renāte Gekiša (Y2)

- 1) My best friend.
- 2) Voluntary work for a youth center.
- 3) I will make year 2013 legen...'wait for it'...dary!

Egidijus Kacerauskas (Y2)

- 1) A straitjacket.
- 2) Gave a pack of milk to a homeless guy, when he drank it in 1min, I gave him another one.
- 3) Go to sleep before 00:00.

Artūrs Dzenis (Y2)

- 1) 37cm of snowfall during the night before my birthday, best Alpine holiday ever .
- 2) Do not know the best one, but the most recent was "adopting" an amur leopard by donating to the nice folks at the WWF.
- 3) I promise not to make promises I can't keep.

Kristaps Apšusals (Y1)

- 1) A trip around Europe.
- 2) Gathered "Rescue packs" at several Maxima's to help families with lower income around Christmas time.
- 3) I will try harder in everything I do.



Rihards Godmanis

- 1) All those that people have put effort in making, not just bought. Don't have an explicit one.
- 2) Made a social business – an enterprise where all profits were given to charity.
- 3) Pass FE from the first try.

Peteris Kloks

- 1) A high tech, 21st-century table hockey donated by colleagues and friends at SIA "Montana".
- 2) Getting a high enough score at SSER entry examination so to free many from getting to know old Mr. Lagrange.
- 3) I will, to the best of my ability, study hard and party hard, so help me God.

Anna Plaudiņa

- 1) Life itself is quite an amazing gift.
- 2) Some years ago I took care of a pigeon with a broken wing, then it got better and went somewhere.
- 3) I will learn to write in Russian and do a makeover in my room.

Darja Jevstafjeva

- 1) A bicycle at the age of 5.
- 2) Joining the "Maisto Bankas" charity organization and helping out at least once every week for a year.
- 3) Try to top score the courses instead of trying to pass them.



Anastasija Muravjova

- 1) If for Christmas, then a shiny, pink, square umbrella, which I lost on the same day watching fireworks.
- 2) Went to the orphanage to give Christmas gifts.
- 3) I promise being ... not so lazy ... at home.

Oskars Berzins

- 1) Honestly, can't remember, I'm just happy if my friends remember my birthday and come and hang out with me.
- 2) I've participated in a few charity events, e.g. an event called "Sasildi Latviju" ("Keep Latvia Warm") a few winters back in the holiday season.
- 3) I have been promising myself for the last 4-5 years to start studying, still wonder when that will happen.



Toms Andersons

- 1) A family trip to Venice on my 7th birthday.
- 2) Together with a friend we stopped our classmate (redhead, afro, poet with a published book) from getting constantly beaten up in school.
- 3) Keep waking up at 5am each day.

Viktorija Juskevica

- 1) A love song !=D
- 2) Blood donation.
- 3) To be better at time-management and to make the most of every opportunity.

Evgenia Grinko (Y1)

- 1) My best friend flying over 2000 kilometers to congratulate me on my BDay.
- 2) Gave the whole chocolate bar to a guitar player in the street :)
- 3) I'll learn German.



Evelina



DO SCHOOLS KILL CREATIVITY?

The sweet school days with their strict teachers, a fear of the blackboard, meals with cutlets and compotes, a lot of gossiping, cheating and other interesting things faded away long ago. However, no one can deny the great influence they had on what kind of people we have become, what kind of perceptions we've formed and what way of thinking we've adopted. This influence might be much larger than it first seems. To exemplify, there was a longitudinal study conducted on people's capacity for divergent thinking (call it creativity if you wish). The astonishing results were that 98% of kindergarten children scored above the level at which a person is considered a genius at divergent thinking. By the age of 15 the proportion of the same kids who got this score diminished to below 10%... At school we are taught only one correct answer, aren't we?



Already contemplating about what you might have become if not for the "great benefits of public education"? Let's look at why it is happening so.

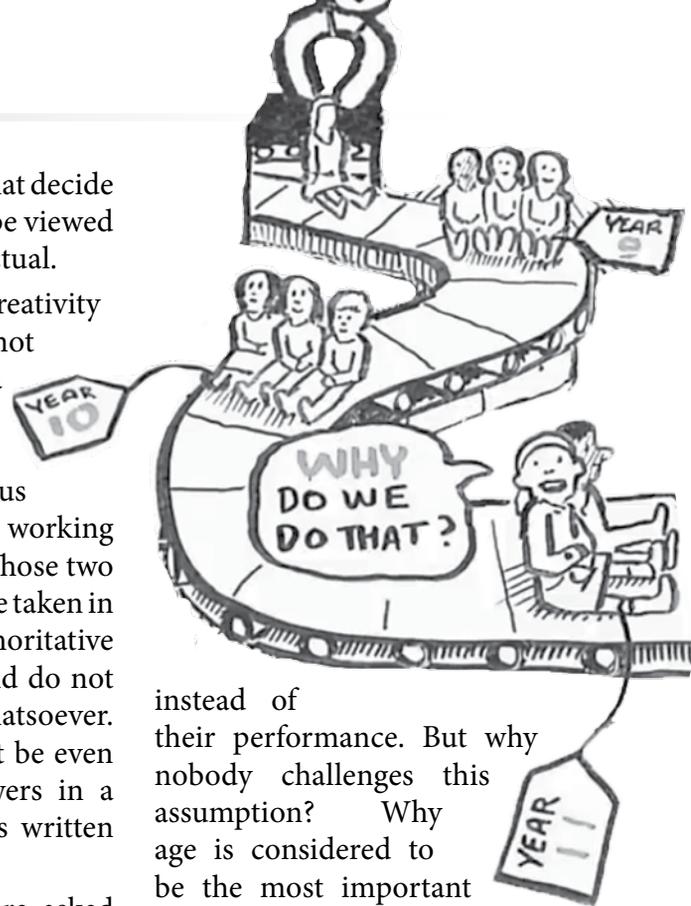
The average school gives its students an array of skills to be used in real life. There are many specifics that we can mention, but in the end all of them require 2 things in different proportions: Deductive reasoning and Knowledge (think of Sherlock Holms and data storage devices). Both are called academic abilities

and they are the ones that decide whether a person can be viewed by others as an Intellectual.

Unfortunately, creativity and ingenuity are not present in this list for a simple reason: they are not necessary and even harmful for monotonous work and peaceful working environment in the class. Those two require specific actions to be taken in a certain order under authoritative direction of the teacher and do not require any new ideas whatsoever. As a result, students might be even penalised for giving answers in a form different from what's written in a methodology book.

During lessons children are asked to do a wide range of tasks, but in reality there are only 3 different ones. They are either asked to do an exercise as shown in an example, retell a piece of information or a combination of both. Even the "creative" subjects such as arts and music are limited to the tasks mentioned above. Any attempt for ingenuity will be punished by a low grade, killing the motivation to seek alternative solutions for the task given. Sounds like a description of an antiutopian novel, but here we are.

Ringed bells, separate facilities specialised into separate subjects, and "batches" of pupils marked by the date of manufacture. Does it remind you of something? A factory line? Right, and this is because public education system, which was born in the industrial age and crafted to the needs of that century, has changed very little in its essence. The base of the system is still conformity and standardisation. Probably, most of us have noticed the large increase in standardised testing in the past few years... We are used to the average distribution of pupils according to their age



instead of their performance. But why nobody challenges this assumption? Why age is considered to be the most important thing kids have in common? Because of that, there are always those who could do more in a certain area of studies, but are restrained from doing so or those who are not keeping up with the program, but have to "go with the flow."

And here we are, studying in one of the most prestigious universities in Eastern Europe, surrounded by, what they call, the most inquisitive minds of the region and getting ready for interesting career opportunities. But wait a minute, if the system is as bad as they write in this article, does that mean that we all massively underutilise our real capacities?

Share your thoughts with us commenting the article on theinsider.lv

Article inspired by: RSA Animate - Changing Education Paradigms



Darja



BLESS YOU!

GOT A COLD? NO WORRIES!

Koreans:



Once a Korean feels unwell, he immediately makes himself a cup of tea with a ginger root. The recipe is the following: you need 4 black peppercorns, cardamom seeds, three cloves (spice), ginger and cinnamon. Grind it all in a coffee grinder, pour it with 2300 ml of water and boil it for 20 minutes. Afterwards, you can supplement drink with milk or honey.

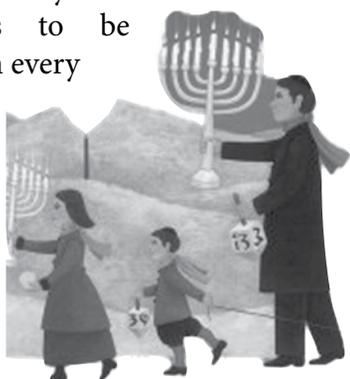
Japanese:

Whenever Japanese does not feel good, surprisingly enough he or she will drink approximately 10 cups of green tea and go to bed. Green tea contains antioxidants, which help to fight the flu and boost immune system. However, when using Japanese traditional medicine, remember, that green tea is a good diuretic, so do not go too far from toilet.



Israeli:

Statistics shows that in winter and autumn 40% of Israeli are getting cold. Nevertheless, they do not care about teas or other herbal brews. For a real Israeli nothing is better than chicken broth. Amazing? Not at all - chicken broth contains the amino acid cysteine. It seems to be great from every point of view; it reduces



the formation of mucus, relieves swelling and inflammation in nasal area. Moreover, the hot steam coming from the cup of broth in addition moisturizes the nasal cavity.

Americans:

When it comes to the first flu symptoms, Americans start using the most radical methods. They drink the mix of lemon juice, peppermint infusion, garlic and honey. To prepare this special cocktail you have to take 1 tea spoon of peppermint, pour a cup of boiled water and start heating over low fire for 3-5 minutes. After that you clean your cocktail till drinkable condition and add 1 tea spoon of honey. During the next step you have to crush a small piece

of garlic and add to lemon juice, pressed from the quarter of the fruit. Mix all the components and drink warm before sleep. As Americans state, this drink helps them to feel healthier in the mornings.

Greeks:

The best way to get well is to drink Hippocrates cocktail. What does it include? Everything! First, you take 2 slices of lemon and pour 2 glasses of red wine on them. Second, add 1 tea spoon of honey and a pinch of cinnamon. Third, wait till it boils. It is very similar to European drink Mulled Wine, which you also have to drink hot and with small sips.



Russians:

Russians like their traditional recipes that contain onion, garlic, decoction of lime or raspberry, heated milk and honey. As for the special recipe you can try 100 g of tea, 100 g of red wine and 100 g of raspberry jam. You can add lemon as you wish and drink the cocktail before sleep.



British:

They are never used to having a little. The first day a Brit catches flu he eats a bunch of different kinds of fruits: apples (preferably green ones), tangerines, oranges, lemons and grapefruit. This is not to defeat flu simply by a big amount of food, but according to the British Scientists English diet contains just a killer dose of ascorbic acid against cold pathogens, as well as substances that contribute to its rapid absorption into the body. There is also a possibility to use not fruit, but only their juice.



Nastya & Irena



JUNIOR PEAK TIME IS GROWING UP!

Hi, guys! Two of the most special days in the midst of November were special for some of the SSE Rigans as **Junior Peak Time 2012 sponsored by Annele** (yes, we had that long title) finals took place, summing up few enthralling and hardly forgettable months.

Starting with statistics, Junior Peak Time did a huge jump towards Peak in the year 2012!

First of all, we had 755 applicants (doubled comparing to last year) from 18 countries from all over the world. Impressive! Moreover, we had finalists from 7 countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus, Hungary, Sweden and even India!

Challenges? To those unfamiliar with JPT: the competition consists of two rounds – preliminary–online round & the finals at SSER. For preliminary round this year we added Case Study to challenge our applicants to get a feeling of what real-life tasks SSE Rigans face. This was a fresh idea – one we're a little proud of – and, according to the finalists, and interesting and innovative one.

Evening well spent? Yes. After solving individual tasks in the morning, we prepared some Team Building activities inside SSER and then in the Old Riga to raise spirits after a long day and to show that JPT is also about FUN! 10 Compadres were waiting for our contestants to grab them and lead through dark Riga streets filled with people celebrating Latvian Independence day, solving quizzes, bargaining, running and taking crazy pictures.

Finally, sharing knowledge. JPT'2012 Organizers invited 4 well-known and honored business leaders, who know what to say and how to talk to get maximum attention from curious listeners. The guest lecturers of 2012 were: **Kristaps Silinš** (Strategic Planer at DDB Latvia), **Andrius Jakučionis** (Creative Director at TBWA Vilnius) **Glen Grant** (CEO at GG Consulting), **Fred Hrenchuk** (Chief Executive Officer at BITE Group)

Thanks for them, thanks for the energetic high-schoolers and for the whole JPT team!

Iuliia

As Iuliia stated all the small facts, I'd like to share a short reminiscence: two guys punching the third one while saying "Wow, you're the first of the organizations to have done this!". And really, due to the fantastic efforts of our fundraising committee we were able to make almost anything that came to our imagination to make a – hopefully – inspiring competition in the middle of November.

However, everything started earlier. It all began by meeting the chief organizers in early September in the selection process, then making JPT presentations in the gymnasiums all around the Baltics – about 20 of them at least, then fundraising, arranging guest speakers... and well, I was only an associate, and I think our chiefs Alina, Iuliia, Tadas, Miks and Tautrimas had a little more to do – let alone supervising and finishing all the minor chores and details and providing everyone with enthusiasm, smile, sense of order and calmness, which the associates are thankful for.

Yet, like always, it is the atmosphere that really stays in your mind. Some of us met SSE Riga one/two years ago

as participants of JPT and were really inspired by the enthusiastic and respectful atmosphere at the School. Atmosphere was strengthened by a life story of a guest lecture who served 30 years in battle units or a frank reflection of CEO of BITE Group about the living habits of a businessman.

I'd like to sum up with another short story. A year ago I saw a message on the Junior Peak Time Facebook wall: "Thanks for making these few months unforgettable!". Well, not the whole two months were unforgettable this year, yet there definitely were a lot of small details to be remembered for a long time: a strange feeling of presenting your new university at your previous school; five sleepy strolls to and from the hotel with an Indian and a Hungarian; four truly inspiring guest lectures, a number of weekly meetings and much more. And, finally, it was interesting! Now, hopefully, preparation for the next year remains. ;)

Tadas

WIN-WIN-WIN!
THE FIRST TIME when
high-schoolers from all
three Baltic states finished
in the final top 3:

1st place
Gytautas Karklius (LT)

2nd place
Joosep Kivastik (EE)

3rd place
Rasmuss Filips (LV)



Iuliia & Tadas



ON THE BIG SCREEN



There are various reasons that make us excited about Christmas, starting with the delicious food, presents and surprises, Christmas light cruising. Moreover, the holidays make us feel good because we reconnect with our families. And Christmas movies are a great opportunity to enjoy these times together.

Yet, if you'll type the keyword "Christmas" into the Internet Movie Database you will get a list of more than 3,000 films and TV titles going back to 1897. Certainly, there is no other holiday that has been depicted on the big screen so many times. Therefore, we took the liberty to make a short list with some of the best Christmas stories that you can enjoy watching with your loved ones.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947) is one of the best Christmas movies of all times. It can warm up your heart and represents a magical story about the importance of believing. All the great things start with believing in the impossible. Don't let its age fool you, this film is very entertaining and definitely deserves a place on the top of the list.

Four Christmases (2008) is the story of a couple that struggles to visit all four of their divorced parents on Christmas Day. I recommend it for all those who want to try something refreshingly sharp and lean, completely opposite to the usual sentimental and syrup Christmas movies. It is an efficient and stress-free entertainment package.

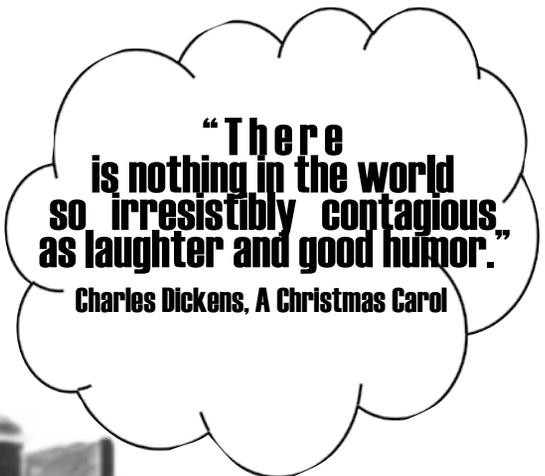
The Holiday (2006) is destined for romantic movie lovers. It is a story of two troubled women with guy-problems who swap homes in each other's countries, where they each meet a local guy and fall in love during the magic winter holidays.

Home Alone (1990) is a wonderful movie with a special

place in each one's heart. Kevin's devious plans and inventions for defending his house will definitely make us remember some of our best childhood moments. It is one of the funniest comedies of all times that you could enjoy with your whole family.

A Christmas Carol (2009) is the story of a greedy old man that is taken on a journey of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions. It is an animated retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel with the allure of supernatural forces.

Merry Christmas to everyone! Hope your holiday will be completed by the beauty of these stories shared with your close friends and family.



"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor."

Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol



Ana



GOSSIP

*WARNING! THIS PAGE CONTAINS MATERIAL WHICH SOME READERS MAY FIND OFFENSIVE. THE INSIDER TEAM DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT APPEARING HERE AND THE ACTIONS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AFTER READING THE GOSSIP PAGE. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU COULD BE OFFENDED IN ANY WAY, SKIP THIS PAGE. AND REMEMBER, THIS IS JUST FOR FUN ;)

Alexey (Y2) really knows what advanced saving style means: he can live without shopping at all. He feels more comfortable asking girls to feed him and, what a surprise, they still do this!

Just one presidential couple in SA election? Belarusian style!

They say Moldovians don't know the meaning of the word "manners".

They say, Auguste you jelly?

They say that Oskar Y2 is very popular with the ladies. (2 ladies to be exact)

They say Konstantin "bolshye dengi" Benkovskis

They say that Juhan and Reinis woke up in the same bed after Arnold's 20...

They say Lucija likes nerafinetais alus.

They say why does Fion always stare at me ? and how the f**k Benjamin knows my name?

They say Lucija is the new gossip girl.

They say that there would've been much more blood donors if only the "no alcohol in the past 24 hours" rule was lifted.

They say that Arnis (Y1) knows how to get into the closed events, crash into photos and get totally drunk for free.

They say that Mārtiņš H. (Y1) and Jūlija (Y1) spend a lot of time together. Even after the lectures.

They say that Kalvis (Y1) seems to enjoy FA very very much, when lectures are provided by Natalja.

They say that Kalvis turned very red when our Financial Accounting teacher told us he was the first she accepted on linked in. Is something more going on?

SA r U mad??? Fourth website in four years - well done: new design same contents...

They say referencing your personal communication with god is really complicated in APA style.

They say big Pilinko, little Pilinko.

Dear Zans-Teodors, please use shower daily! People around.

They say it has always been a shame to be a free-rider at SSER. For this Year1 Baltic students it is obviously a fashion which they are proud of!..

They say "shity shenter" in the UK.

They say when Lithuanian girls laugh the gates of Tartarus crumble.

They say some people just favour deer over other animals.

They say you should never leave your drink unattended in a party if there's Y1 around.

They say that you don't have to put Lauma next to Zlo girlfriend to see that it was the wrong choice ;)

They say next party in SSE should be SWINGER party.

They say Rihards G(Y2) and Andrey B(Y3) have become fans of double whopper king burgers. They say 5 times REFILL is an absolute minimum, we are economists!

They say exchange in Moscow brings nerding to a new level.

They say Andrew Z.(Y3) and Dmitry S.(Y3) believe that perfect LOVE is COMMUNISM.

They say Justinas (Y3) spent 2 weeks with Russians and survived, though, life will never be the same again...

They say Nikita (Y3) has a perspective career in cookery.

They say exchange in Asia made a few people change and revalue things.

They say what goes around comes around - let's see if there is no proper Econometrics next year again.

They say Sukis participates!

They say Russian adventures in Barcelona. WOOHOOOO!!

They say that math and EBP was unconquerable for Y1s. Don't even think about FE. HRM or Marketing will be way too much for y'all.

They say Aurielka (Y3) is THE BEST flatmate (& teammate) EVER!!!!

They say that Daina (Y???) is having an affair with Studies. Also, they say that it won't last for long - Studies will soon dump her.

They say that Nikita (Y3) has a big crotch. At least he thinks so..

They say that Nikita (Y3) is fat. Still.

They say that this year Andrew (y3) would love to sit in the front row during FE (again), because he doesn't want to look like a retaker.

They say that Igor and Tatiana's relationship goooooess FACEBOOK!

They say Lukas A. (Y1) spends a lot of time in the library, but is he studying there ?

They say that Lithuanians tried to burn the school down during Gintare's birthday.

They say Lauma (Y2) showed her real face during the HomeComing.

They say some debaters should learn how to behave in high standard parties!!!

They say the Debate Society homecoming was awesome!

They say scholarships weren't the only "free stuff" given from the Alumni during Homecoming. Reikia parenti jaunima :D

They say pure insolence can be observed in the lobby during conferences.

They also say that choosing easy money over "long runners" doesn't earn you any sympathy points among students.

They say W-32 isn't worth sharing the lobby with RGSL guys.

They say that Uldis Boldans either drank 5l carrot juice or went to solarium this morning.

They say that (advanced) is for nerds.

Nikita (Y4) believes size doesn't matter.

They say Annija M. (Y1), it is not fashionable anymore to glitter your hair! Grown your own or leave them the way they are!

This last issue of the Insider was legen... wait for it ...DARY!!!

A random sample of girls at SSE shows that Belarus is one pretty damn hot country.

They say that rejected and hopeless guys and jealous girls harass cute Belarusian girls.

Turns out that the people hating on some girls are the ones who've been rejected by them. What a surprise and how manly *cough* *cough*.

Darja J (Y1) says Dziugas (Y1) would make a perfect boyfriend for ANY girl. Unfortunately for Darja herself, she already has "the hots" for a certain Latvian. ;)

They say Justas (Y2) and Nerijus (Y2) are like kittens. The only difference is that one is declawed and the other sharpens his claws occasionally.

It seems that Toms hates everyone around here. He should try to hide that at least a little bit if he wants to become the president.

They say Y1 have a new course mate- 2012bin.

They say "Ou, you know, we are going to Oxford as judges, so we have to be judges this time, because, you know, we are going to Oxford..." EVERY. FREAKING. DEBATE!

They say there's a new top-score student in Micro. He's short, white and doesn't talk trash.

They say bitches gonna bitch.

"Yes, yes!!!", was screaming Jegors Ivanovs when found out that Eduards Lengefers (Y2) would not attend the HoCo party.

Yauheni H. (Y2) is good at breaking copyright laws.

They say that opposite to Y2's, basis of party-animals among Y1's are girls. Lesson to be learnt - you simply need to make pre-parties somewhere where colors of the walls are girlish. Success guaranteed.

They say that some people compete in better grades, others - in sport activities. Marina (Y2) combines everything together - her run Soros-W32 will be remembered by those who witnessed it.

They say when Lauma, Raitis and Arturs (Y2) whisper during lectures you can hear it across the auditorium.

They say someone is planning to write "Damn" on all tables in Soros.

They say if Y1's wouldn't have all gotten +20 points in math for nothing only 60 would have passed. Are they the champions now?

They say people have mixed feelings about the SA candidates.



CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS!

One day, following an interschool athletics meeting, Didon ended his speech quoting three Latin words: Citius, Altius, Fortius (Faster, Higher, Stronger). It was soon adopted as the moto of the Olympic Games, and since then it has been inspiring people all over the world to excel at various physical and sports activities. Even though we are a school of economics and primarily these are our heads which have to do most of the job, many people in our community find sports and games to be a perfect get-away from our daily routine. Fortunately, we have especially enthusiastic people who don't even mind engaging in the organisational part of the issue and come up with great ideas for our heavy, tired heads to release stress and compete a bit in a friendly, relaxing environment. One of such events is covered below!

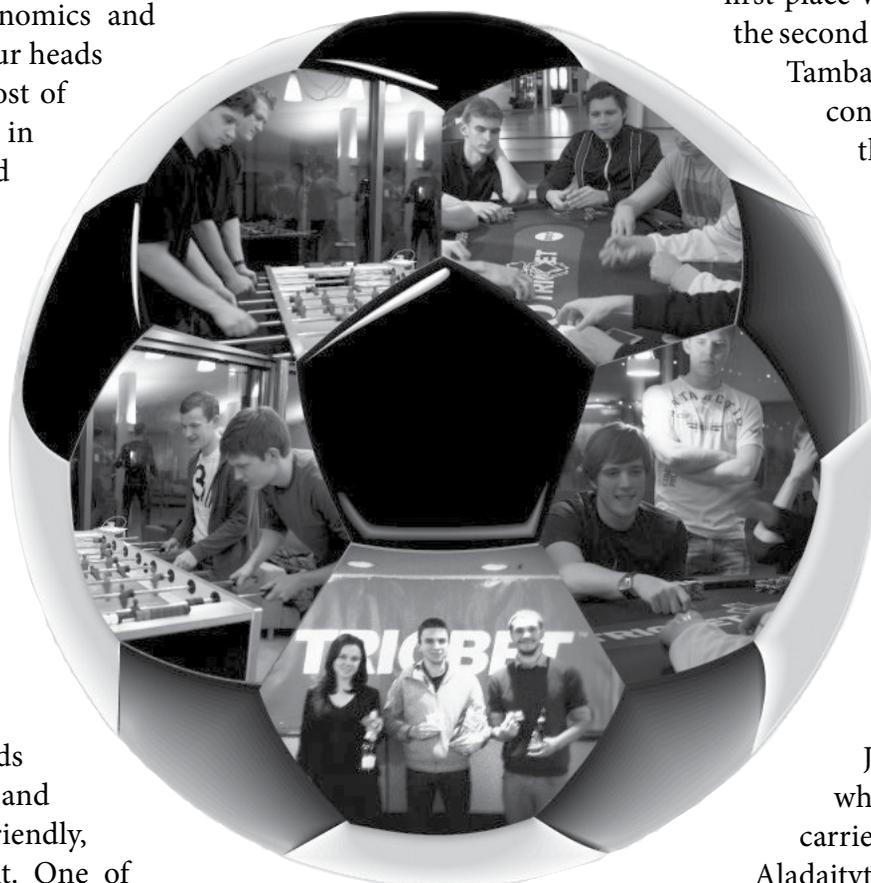
The first Triobet Poker, Kinect Adventures & Foosball Tournament took place in SSE Riga lobby on 24th of November. We would like to say "thank you" to all 40 participants who competed and had fun at this event.

Very cool people participated in this competition, the ones who didn't lack a competitive spirit to try their chances in a mind blowing Poker

Tournament and check sleight of their hand in Foosball.

When taking foosball table with your car seems too mainstream, guys tried to do it SSE Riga style: going by trolleybus! They like to keep things interesting not only for themselves, but for others as well.

Despite of this fact, the second table was safely delivered to SSE Riga and after 21 exciting foosball matches we found out our winners: Aleksandrs



Goba and Sabine Andzena. They were the best of the best 14 participants. The key to their success is hard work during trainings and performing as a real team during the game. And we can see that this works!

Screaming and shouting are part of foosball and Kinect Adventures. If somebody heard some of that kind

of noises outside, then you know – we had a lot of fun there and the games were really intense!

Our foosball champions!

After long hours of logical thinking, gambling and competing with opponents, we found out the best poker players among us. It was a hard competition between 2 tables with 10 participants at each. Be aware of our own girls: only two were participating in poker and both made it to the finals. Congratulations: the first place went to Kaspars Studāns, the second one was taken place Evija Tambaka, and Juris Lebedoks confidently ended up on the third place. A lot of Poker players agree that the most important things are strategy and being able to read your opponents, but you still have to remember when to stop and when to go all in.

It should be noted that Poker Tournament would not have been possible without our moderator Juozas Rimgaila, and the whole event was smoothly carried out thanks to Dovile Aladaityte. Cheers for that and thank you for creating such a great event!



Sanita



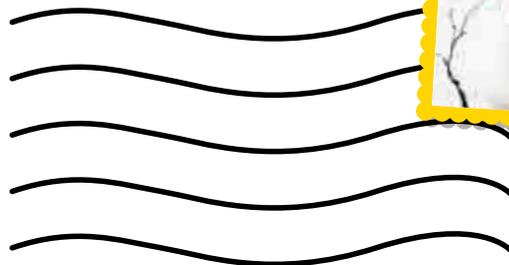
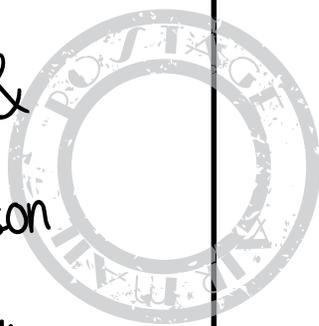
THE NEW INSIDER TEAM



COMING SOON



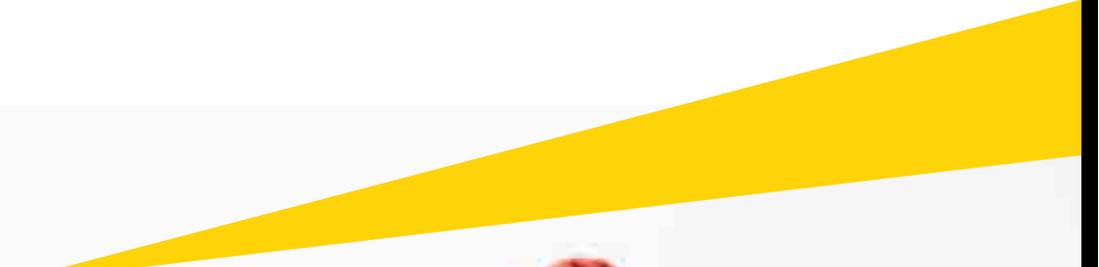
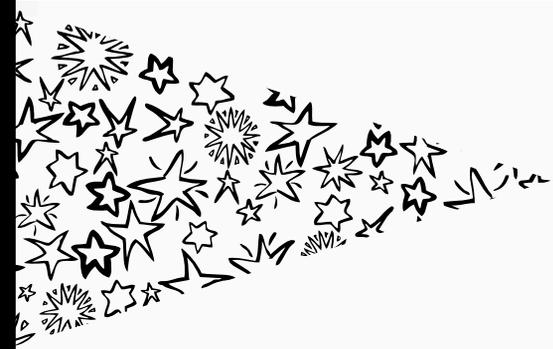
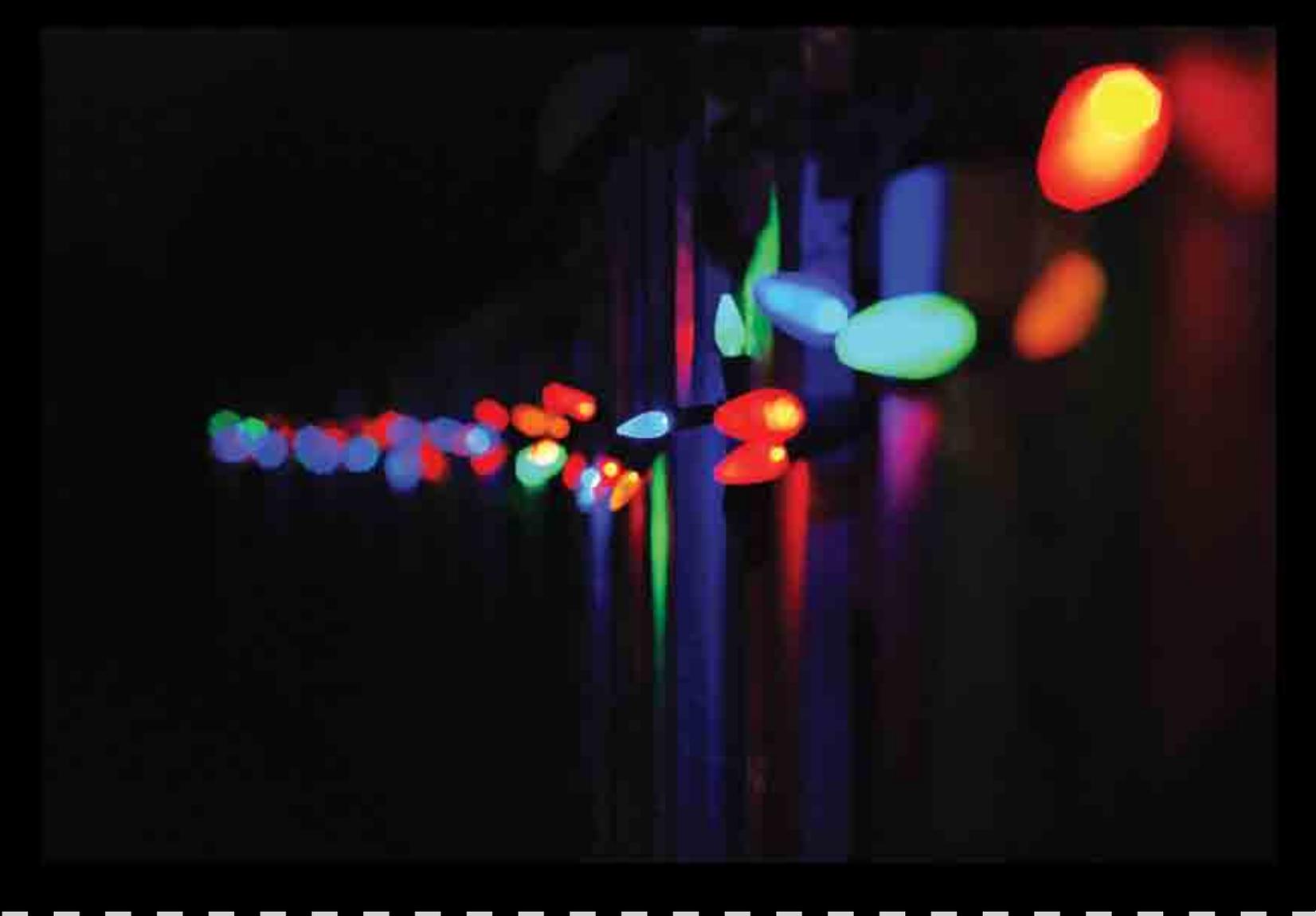
Wishing you a warm &
wonderful holiday season
& a happy new year
filled with peace,
health
and happiness!



SSE Riga Students

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 **ERNST & YOUNG**
Quality In Everything We Do