

the INSIDER

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'There is nothing permanent except change.' Even though winter seems to disagree and doesn't want to leave, spring will soon enough take its rightful place. Springtime is associated with rebirth, rejuvenation, and regrowth. That certainly pretty much sums up our story - so here goes the 2nd 'The Insider' issue 2013. It comes with some new stuff, which we kindly invite you to discover by yourself. Moreover it's high time to start hunting for internships, but do not forget to participate in other school events too. If you're interested to get some useful information about both (and we know you are), read further. Clean up your CVs, check your cover letters, print out your business cards and get ready to get some work done this summer.

Stay classy and keep on reading,

The Insider

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The Economics of 2013

The biggest single economic issue of 2013 in the countries represented at SSE Riga has to be Latvia and its accession (or not) to the Eurozone. If the powers that be have it their way Latvia will join the Eurozone on 1 January 2014, exchanging lats into euro at the 0.702804 LVL/EUR parity.

Does Latvia qualify for membership of the euro and is it beneficial for the country to join? The former question will be answered during the spring and summer when Latvia will be assessed on whether it fulfils the Maastricht criteria (easy to assess) for membership and displays sufficient sustainability (hard to assess; thus highly political). To me it is quite obvious that the country satisfies and will satisfy in the coming months the five Maastricht criteria. As no country that has been seeking Eurozone membership has seen its application rejected when fulfilling those five criteria, I am more certain than uncertain that Latvia will join by 2014.



But should it do so? I have a list of arguments in favour of joining that is far too long for this column while the list I have for not joining is much shorter but includes the very important point: Joining the Eurozone is a one-way street – there is no turning back. Alas, if you make the choice to join it better be the right choice.

Some have compared joining the Eurozone as getting one of the last tickets to the Titanic. Personally, I don't see it like that at all but history has it that the orchestra kept playing on the Titanic as the ship sank. Should something similar happen to the euro – but it won't! – we will at least go down in style....



Hello, dear students!

Congratulations with the coming spring! Maybe even the cold-hearted Riga's ice will melt finally. And together with the spring lots of awesome things are happening: FE has ended, Days of Opportunities is almost there, PeakTime is getting closer...

As for the Student Association, our main event has already happened: old SA board left and now it is time for the new one to perform. I hope you enjoyed the Takeover Party.

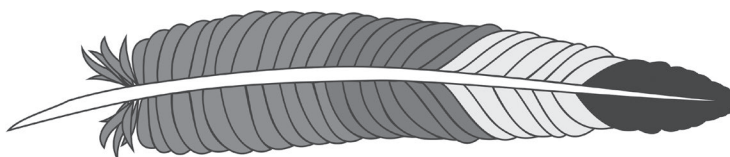
P.S. Don't forget to participate in Yearbook and Newcomers Guide, so that a piece of you will remain on the pages of SSE Riga history.

Wishing all the best,

Information Committee Chairperson of Student Association 2013

Krystina Pilinko

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Dear all,

Spring is finally kicking off, and it means that the finals of Peak Time 2013 are getting closer and closer. In a little bit more than a month students from all over the world will gather at SSE Riga to compete for Peak Time champions' name. It is going to be an exciting networking experience, fun and competitiveness altogether! By the time you read this, preliminary rounds will be finished: Cesim business simulation completed, case study solved, all application packages received. In a couple of days we are going to announce the lucky 80 people who proved that they are worth being with us, competing and celebrating in Riga on May 2-5. It is going to be a legendary 4 day fiesta which wouldn't be possible without the contribution of SSE Riga.

Yours,

Peak Time 2013 organizers



With Financial Economics finally over, Y2s are finally back, joining the society for the spring term, which is going to nothing but awesome. Starting with a lecture on gender equality by Rhonda Fisher and VUAS debate tournament in Valmiera, this term promises lots and lots of events and debate tournaments. Valmiera, Vilnius, St. Petersburg, Stockholm and Tartu are just a few cities that debaters representing SSE Riga Debate Society will attend and, hopefully, bring back award winning places. As you might have already noticed from the name, LMT is no longer sponsoring the society, which means we have a new fundraising challenge which doubles as a possibility to get an even cooler sponsor.

Best of luck,

SSE Riga Debate Society



180Degrees
CONSULTING

Dear fellows,

The past two months were a rather calm period for the organization. Year 1 consultants proceeded on the company cases and took responsibility for the research phase. Currently, they are discovering the competition, conducting benchmark analysis, examining companies' daily operations and structure. Each task is followed by a feedback provided by the project managers Elena Salamandic, Andrei Romamcenco and Yauheni Hanchyts. Moreover, 180 Degrees Consulting International is currently developing the IT system of the organization to ensure that all branches can easily communicate and share information. The Intranet, web platform built especially for 180DC, which members use on the international level is called Village.

Lastly, we would like to remind that the active part of working on the company cases is just around the corner. Soon consultants teams will gather together to discuss the cases and meet company representatives. Spring is expected to be bright, challenging and fruitful!

Best wishes,

180 Degrees Consulting Riga Executive board


LEIF MUTÉN
SOCIETY

Dear Students,

Leif Muten Society is happy to announce that more than 10 people were selected and got scholarships to attend the world's largest student-run business convention "World Business Dialogue". Keeping the positive attitude towards this business convention, the organization hopes that next year Y1s will be also very active while applying to this event as it is a wonderful opportunity to represent our school worldwide.

Furthermore, the organization is happy about Y2s who are back on their usual lives after the Financial Economics course and expects to see their motivation by taking new extracurricular activities or dealing with the old ones.

Finally, LMS wishes to have a wonderful and inspiring spring. The sun is finally shining to all of us!



Entrepreneurship
Support
Centre

Dear SSE Riga students,

This year our cosy little Business Lab has grown big and became the SSE Riga Entrepreneurship Support Centre (ESC). This is not only about a new fancy name – besides the new room and furniture we have also added a new team, great projects and fantastic ideas to our agenda. Schedule your last week of summer holidays for the Summer Bootcamp SkillMixer (together with Tartu University and Aalto Design Factory). What is more, Garage 48 Ventspils in May is getting closer. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs may bring you an opportunity to get new valuable experience while working abroad. And just as before you are more than welcome to join us, get consultants and mentors to work on your own businesses in room 515.

Feel free to drop by,

Marija Odineca & Oskars Gauks



Choir is getting ready for The XXV Latvian Song and XV Dance festivals – the biggest cultural events of this year which will be held from June 30 to July 7. It will gather a lot of choirs from all around Latvia, put them into national costumes and make them sing “ligo” (most frequent word in Festival songs) as loud and melodiously as they can. Many new people have joined us recently for this occasion and soon Soros won't be enough for rehearsals. Spring is coming and infectious diseases attack our throats, so drink more tea, sing songs and enjoy the first days of good weather. And join the choir.



Dear friends,

The moment has finally arrived, the Investment Game '13 started on the 11th of March. Get ready for two exciting months of trading and competing with thousands of bright students from all over the world. The range of countries is very diverse, from the Baltic States to China, United States and beyond. These two months will be extremely challenging not only for the board, but also for our students, who are currently involved in marketing activities and will also write market overviews, learning the basics of stock analysis. At the same time, 49'ers Challenge has also started and we encourage teams from SSE Riga to participate and defend the honour of our school, competing with teams from famous and top universities from the whole world. In addition, it is a great opportunity to win great awards, as our prize pool this year includes coins of pure gold worth €1,200 and other small prizes!

This semester will also bring you a number of interesting guest lectures on various topics, organized in cooperation with professionals from the respective fields. This concludes our brief overview of this month's activities, and should something new or interesting arise, immediate news shall follow.

Yours financially,

iFund

THE INVISIBLE MENTOR

I push for the elevator, but instead he goes straight for the stairs. Physical activity helps the mental one, he says. Quite a captivating personality, JURIS BARISS, a father of four daughters, businessman and an MIT graduate, may soon rise in popularity to a level felt by Morten Hansen, Tālis Pūtniņš, and a few others. To this, he smiles, but quickly notes that he's not here to become our friend; rather, a mentor. And for some of us guided in the labyrinth of an organization's power centers for the first time, he just may be a one, even if we realize this years after.

You often give remarks about your jokes. Why is humor important?

The ability to make fun of yourself is a key feature of self-confidence. Hey, you will make mistakes, and humor is one way of dealing with the embarrassment. It's a survival mechanism.

Who's your favourite comedian?

Personally, I like Dilbert very much, an American comic strip dealing with corporate environment. I really like the Far Side, made by Gary Larson. His book is over there (points to the table). He actually quit as a cartoonist at the peak of his career, and said: 'I did my ten years, that's it. Now I go fishing and stuff.'

It appears you prefer comics over stand-up comedies.

It's probably true. The problem



with stand-ups... It's like a book and a movie. A movie feeds you, it's like a hole. It's all there, and you accept it or don't. A book, like a cartoon, it's just so much that you can add! You are the one who builds the story.

Does that also relate to your life? That you have chosen to dare adding quality yourself rather than follow a common path?

Definitely. I haven't thought about it that way, but now that you say it, absolutely. I stopped watching TV years ago. For once, I simply got bored. Someone has done all the story, and all you have to do is keep your eyes and mouth open, and let it pour in.

Can you still find time for it? Like, reading books.

I do, but less than I would like. Right now, I'm reading some heavy philosophy books, such as Thoreau's *Walden*, which I have

with me in the hotel. It's a book you have to read slowly, you can't just browse through.

Being able to take it slowly once in a while is what you also advocated during the last lecture.

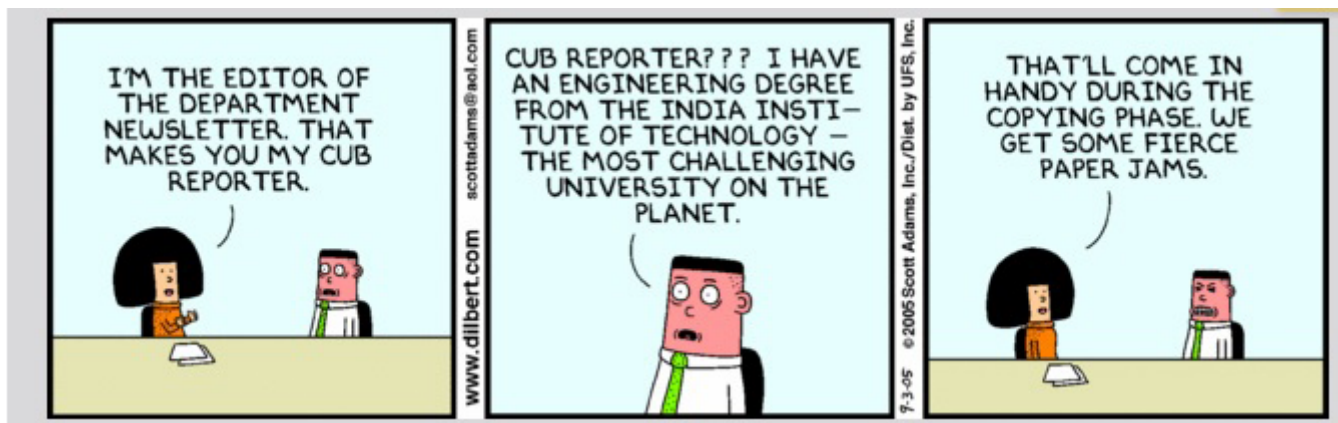
Yes, and this appreciation has come after a long journey. People are different, of course. But the understanding that you can only deliver when you allow yourself to come out is a key thing. I'm not a slow person myself, yet I've realized that I need the 'slow', thinking time, too. Otherwise you're a copy-paste of what's around you.

What were the driving factors, or events, that helped to open you up in this way?

First, it's a little bit of everything. There's a story a high profile executive told me at a business seminar. He had once heard a priest giving an great speech. But there was a guy, a Swede, saying that we'll still make mistakes, even though the priest just laid out how not to. Is there a way to cut through the mistakes? The priest says: 'There is. Through experience.' The Swede then asks how to get that experience. 'Through mistakes,' the priest concludes. That's how I learned, through mistakes.

Could you give a hint at what type of mistakes are they? You know, it's probably coming for us, too.

I took me years (years!) to realize that the human side of organizations is not something you can make go away. I've been an executive for many years. I thought if I could just find the right person; do the analysis a bit better; clear up the structure, I could design the politics away.



You can't do that! These are people, not bricks. And then, after a while, people start noticing that it's easier to work with you.

They say this might be a problem with students from SSER. Would you agree?

That's what I said in the first class. Some of you are a bit more arrogant, and for a good reason: you're smart, hardworking, bright. But you also have to learn how to work with people and get things done. OK, you're the smartest, but so what? You still have to understand the political landscape. Otherwise you'll hit against the wall.

What are the key pieces of advice?

First, the attitude. If you think you're the smartest guy in the room, it shows. Really, a young person's cockiness is often not that well based. You're not better than them. But this is tough to implement, and comes back to your personality more than anything else. Second, just because you're right doesn't mean things will happen. SSER students I've worked with can often corner most people with their logics, but things still aren't done in their way.

How come you decided to share this extensive experience with students?

I've always liked sharing experience. If an idea of mine gets to you, and you can apply it, it's a fantastic feeling of gratification! I have run numerous professional seminars and been a guest lecturer now and then, but this year at SSE Riga was the first A to Z course for me. And it was tough. I haven't worked this hard for a very long time. I wanted to keep the standards high, because for most people the course may have built a fundament.

How much of the course was based on MIT material and how much your personal experience?

I'd say both. It's definitely close to MIT curriculum. MIT stands for changing the world, and I liked that very much. It's more about engineers and innovative people coming together than a very personal learning practiced

at other major business schools. It was all practical, very little theory, and matched very well with my personal experience. O&M is a mix of undergrad, grad and MBA material. It works, because it's not sequential, like mathematics.

How possible it is for a Eastern European to attend universities such as MIT?

There are definitely chances. I personally know a bunch of Latvians there. It's suprising how much you can accomplish. Just give it a try! All it can cost is your self-confidence. But remember that American schools focus much more on personality as a whole than on academic record. A kid I helped with got into a prestigious private US school last year, with an average grade of 8.2 in Math. In US, they were amazed by his extra-curriculars, while in Europe he often had to discuss why the grade wasn't 8.7.

In context of Eastern Europe, what would you do if in our place: go for masters degree, or first focus on having a meaningful job experience?

I really suggest taking a break between bachelor's and the next step. Except if you really see yourself as a researcher. Otherwise, work for two to three years in the field of your interest. If and when you'll come back, you'll get so much more of further studies. You will know what is of real value, and know when to disagree. Of course, it's only my

opinion and filter it big-time.

In an interview with Rigas Laiks, you once remarked that MIT works with ideas that will shape the future 10 years from now, while here, especially in science, the focus is often on ideas that are already 10 year old. How important it is for us to reach out to these regions when possible?

I think it's of utmost importance. I would strongly suggest taking undergraduate and graduate education at different schools and regions. The different experiences will give network and breadth. You want people to stay in the country not because they don't know anything better, but because they want to stay here.

Would you encourage students to specialize in a different field, like you did with science and business?

Yes, if you have the guts. Of course, if you're clear about what you love, don't lose time. School is fun, perhaps more fun than useful in real world. After all, there's a reason why Bill Gates and Steve Jobs never graduated from their schools. Otherwise, a merger of two disciplines is a fantastic and a fun place to be.

Can we expect to see you here next year?

It depends on a number of things, among them your feedback. I have to make sure my work is useful!



HERO OF THE MONTH:

VIKTORYIA PILINKO

Viktoryia (Belarus), having the highest score this year of 163 points in the legendary Financial Economics course, shares her thoughts about what it takes to be a top-score.

FE has passed. You are still alive. How do you feel?

(Thinks). Quite happy that it is finished. I was really tired during the course, so it's a relief. As for being a top-score, there's no special feeling about that, really.

Some people started prepairing for FE by reading the mandatory articles even during the Winter holidays. Did you study at New Year's Eve?

No, I didn't. I read 7 articles during altogether during the holidays. Frankly speaking, I think it was useless, as you can't understand what you're reading until you start studying.

What type of person succeeds in FE?

First, it's about being calm and patient; not getting too nervous too early. It's like any other course, just a bit more intensive. Second, most SSER students have to be more hardworking to excel at FE. Plus, be interested in finance.

What's so great about finance that you enjoy?

It's a broad sphere with lots of applications. It's very practical. I'd really like working in investment banking, at least for some time. I was interested even before the course started, and more so afterwards.

Did you forget about sleep altogether?

I made a small plan every day, and stuck to it no matter what. Sleep depended on when I finish the plan, which included reading, solving and reviewing. In the first part of the course, I was reading the slides and book (the book, I have to admit, was a bit useless). Then, in



the last two weeks, I focused more on solving the exercises correctly, with no time constraints.

How did you find the exam?

Because I had solved almost all previous exams, I managed to do all the tasks in the exam. I was very satisfied when I got the result, because I didn't expect it. I was shocked about the exam itself, as it was much more difficult than in the previous two years. So, as I was solving it, some strange feeling was going on in my head. You kind of know everything, but at some point you're not sure whether what you're writing makes sense.

Do you prefer studying alone or in a group?

I never really study in groups. I don't find them that useful, and often it can be more of a waste of time. On my own I can sort out what is important and what isn't.

How did you allocate your prep time for articles and everything else?

As for the articles, I made small summaries. If it was a package of easier articles, I'd read them all together before a guiding seminar, like seven or eight in a row. It's crucial to be selective while reading, as some more technical passages can be skipped. Right before the exam, I asked my sister to hold the summary before me and ask me questions about it.

Some people criticized the usefulness of the lectures. How did you find them?

As for Peter's part, it wasn't much value adding in a sense that they lacked explanation. However, Tālis is a very good lecturer and helped a lot.

What would you advise for next year students?

It's all about finding the right approach for your personality. Get rid of all not-so-important activities, too. For me, it was pretty much everything. I sacrificed participation in all organizations, most of all debates. No reading or watching movies. The only thing I couldn't get rid of was How I Met Your Mother (laughs).

As I look back, perhaps it was also not a good idea to stay up so late for so many nights later on.

Unfortunately, I also gave up the gym, and it was a torture. Looking back, it would be wiser not to do it. To relieve stress, I took 15 to 20 minute nap when my head was too full of everything.

How did you deal with the stress?

After the exam, I finally went shopping, watched movies and even went to Germany.

What are some of your other future plans?

I'm going to Hong Kong for the exchange semester next year. I want to explore another culture and meet new people, not just work or study all the time.

Can we expect you to help Y1s next year?

Yes. I will be the head TA next year! But I have to say that I won't be that gentle and nice (laughs). This year, Kristaps Vasiljevs done a great job, and I will try my best to be as good. Of course, the TAs also create the tasks, which can be even harder than dealing with the lectures. So, look forward to it (smiles).

FE DIARIES

The infamous Financial Economics course has passed, exams were written and reports submitted. However, Y2 are still trying to come to their senses after this lifetime experience. They say that we only remember the good things from our passed, but what do students of the second year remember from the passed 2 months?

THE GOOD DAYS

Probably the day of exam results. While returning from the gym together with Aura, we saw a car with a number plate that included „FE“ stopping near the traffic light in front of us and started moving again only after we passed it. That WAS a sign. When we checked the results... It was screaming, and shouting, and crying, and laughing... (Sorry Tanya for waking you up). But hell yeah, we passed.

The Financial Economics course provided me with plenty of wonderful and unforgettable moments, so it is really hard to pick only one. But probably the best day during the course was some Saturday in February, when my dad remembered me and brought lots of food.

Today is the wonderful day. Not that I've realised that I know something, or that I do not want to sleep, or that the course is actually not that bad after all. It is just a bit of sun outside, and I can feel a bit of warmth in the air. And yes, today is the first lecture of the second half of the course. And no, I will not miss the first half.

The best day during the FE was Talis' 1st lecture. He just inspired the whole auditorium with his charisma and knowledge of the subject. This was the first time experience, when you start to understand what finance is all about and why it is so cool during the first lectures.

The best day(s) during FE was the day when I realized that we have covered all the materials and I understood it relatively well. The moment when I understood - it is not as hard as I was expecting. It is all manageable! (And then came the exam...) And undoubtedly the other best day was when the results came out and I passed. No words are needed here.

THE NOT SO GOOD DAYS

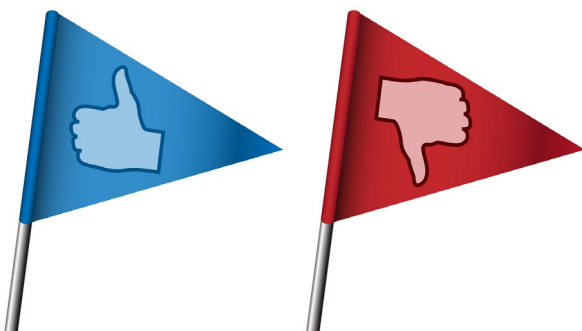
I am waking up. I cannot feel my cheek and there is some strange noise in the ears which should not be there. I realise that half of the course is gone. And, it seems, half of my brain is away together with it. As the drawing man grabs his straw, I reach out to the magic cup. Gulp, one more, another one... Feels like my head is back in place. Good morning, Viktoria Pilinko, nice to meet you.

Stressing out one bad day during FE was tough, therefore I will not point out only one particular day, but rather an average one. It was a nightmare when after 2 hours sleep, you go to Piter's lecture, while he was sick, you want to sleep, try to read articles during the lecture, but Piter with his microphone was always disturbing those who slept or tried to sleep.

Actually, the hardest was the beginning. When you still have loads of energy, but going into this mode of book slavery is neither very easy, nor appealing. I remember when I had to spend a whole day in the university, from 8:00 till 22:00... I know, I know some crazy do that for every subject, but for me that was disturbing.

Meanwhile, the hardest time during the course was a couple of days before that Saturday, since I did not have much to eat. The most stressful day was even before the Financial Economics course started, when we had to pick teams for the report, as I got torn between two choices.

The worst day during FE was the exam day. I woke up, not really sure if I slept during the night or not. Took a shower, got dressed, ate something. I did everything automatically, because my thoughts were somewhere else. The food didn't have any taste so I just left it there. Then, in school, I still wasn't sure what's going on. "Is it really THE day already?"... The feeling after the exam (it was a total catastrophe) was kind of empty and miserable - the feeling of a sad burrito.



Toms Niparts: Anatomy of a President

Behind the scenes with the guy who almost became a hockey player, but made it to the presidency. Twice.

Do you remember who was the first person you called after you got elected?

Actually I didn't call, I sent a text message. Of course, to my mother and father.

What did they say?

They responded after half an hour, congratulating me. I had been updating them constantly throughout the election process. They supported me, but also reminded how big a responsibility it is with all the duties. They tried to be as objective as they could.

With a two months experience in this position, what's the job really like?

Before, I thought the work consisted more of, so to say, 'big things', large projects, etc. However, all the projects and initiatives we have been working with actually consist of very, very many small details. These are extremely important as I now see. Moreover, one of the toughest challenges so far has been working effectively with people. Even in the SA board, people sometimes lack the motivation they had in the beginning. This is one of the many things Kristaps Bošs (previous SSER President) warned me about.

Interestingly, you are not a typical SSE Riga Latvian student in terms of where you come from...

Yes, I actually come from Jelgava, where I have lived all my life. In fact, I am still living there, and it's challenging to spend about two hours



every day going to and from Jelgava.

You go by car?

It depends. Either by car or by train. But if I go by car, it's definitely not mine, as I'm a student and cannot afford it (smiles).

Did you often step up and take initiative during your high-school years?

Yes, definitely. Even though I enrolled in Jelgava Spīdola Gymnasium only in 10th grade, I managed to get along with other guys and after a year was elected president of the Gymnasium.

Could you share some of the take-aways from that experience?

Back then, I relied too much on other people keeping up to their duties. As a result, some projects had to be abandoned. But, as I say, if you don't fail, you don't win.

How come you eventually applied to SSE Riga? How did you learn about it, considering the perhaps limited info in Jelgava about the school at the time?

You're right, there was almost no information. I started doing research on this school after applying to

Junior PeakTime. That year I ended up in the mid 100s, but managed to reach the top-20 the year after that. Eventually I finished second in the whole tournament!

At the end of the day, such events as Junior Peaktime had more influence on your decision than any promo-presentation?

Exactly. A presentation, like a lecture, gives you the theory. But a hands-on experience provides you with a genuine feeling.

How do you remember the admissions interview?

Morten interviewed me and he must have seen me in Junior PeakTime competition (he was a guest lecturer there). There weren't any tough questions, really. The admission tests were much harder, as there was no formula sheet. I believe people coming from outside Riga, like me myself, aren't that used to it.

How did you adjust to life in SSER and Riga in general? For some it causes a problem.

I already knew Riga pretty well after creating a start-up together with a friend. We did fun team-building for elementary and high school students. I even had to skip school once a week for that.

Again, you learned how to communicate with people. How important is communication in your job right now?

Yes, it's definitely one of the most significant competencies.

What were your first impressions about SSE Riga?

From the first couple of weeks, I was surprised by the really professional environment. Everyone was thinking, behaving, even dressing differently. Moreover, the amount of work at the beginning was huge, you remember. LOE till 7 PM, and then Fionn says: 'OK, now to Old Riga for free drinks!', while I'm looking at the schedule with the last train leaving Riga at 9:30 PM (laughs). I had to adjust to a new level. But the further it went, the more this place started to feel like...

...home?

Almost. Almost like home, yes.

And then, amidst all of that, came the SA elections. By the way, how did you befriend Kipras?

We once sat at the same table during lunch. But the time we actually got to know each other was the Pub Tour. We were in the same team, and won. That's perhaps the first time we understood the two of us can make a good team (of course, full respect to the other team members).

As for the elections, I had already been thinking about running, but only for the presidential couple, since all other positions require very specific competencies. The one I possess is leadership. Then one day Kipras came up to me, offering to run together, me as the president. After a very brief conversation I accepted.

Didn't you need some time to reconsider?

No. I believe those are the moments... if you think twice, the train will already be gone. Apparently, it was the right choice.

Is fast decision-making also very important now?

It is, but now it comes with the responsibility.

How would you describe Kipras? How similar are you?

We are definitely not the same kind of people. I consider myself to be responsible, perhaps with a skeptical eye on some issues. I can definitely be critical.

Because you've had the experience.

Yes, but Kipras... He's more creative, maybe more fun than me. I first saw this side of him in Newcomer's camp, but later also during the Pub Tour. While I worked with the map, he had no problem doing all the creative tasks.

How did you communicate with Kristaps [Bošs], before and after the elections?

The first person I approached was Gabrieliuss [Vaičaitis; then Vice-President], as I already knew him from Junior PeakTime where he

was a compadre. As for Kristaps, I can say only the best. Whenever we approached them, they always tried to help.

For the last two years in a row, the Presidential Couple included a Latvian and a Lithuanian. Is it a coincidence?

One assumption may be that it's a strategic move, but I don't buy that. We've had an Estonian president, only Latvian couples, etc. Moreover, the main thing is always the personalities and the bond within the couple. And slightly different perspectives only help in this case.

You were the only couple campaigning. What did that change?

Ough... I believe this was the worst thing that could've happened, especially for us. People didn't have anyone to whom they could compare us. That's the whole spirit of elections. I would have enjoyed the process of competition, even a fight, much more. It would have also been more fun for the students. Instead, some people listened to us,

but pressed for second round and some better candidates, pointing to every single thing we did wrong.

How would you compare yourselves to the previous Presidential couple?

My answer wouldn't be completely objective.

What would you say to those who called for a second round, maybe just for the sake of competition?

That's their opinion and I respect that. They could cast their votes, but eventually that wasn't the majority. But I definitely wouldn't be afraid of competition. Really, there has been a lot of competition in my life.

After the election, were there any people suddenly tried to appear as your friends?

Yes, it was a bit funny. During the results night at Coyotee, lots of people came up to congratulate us and have a little friendly chat. But after a

“However,

some of the first people who came up to the stage to congratulate us, voted against us.”

month, having access to the eLearning, we could see who voted for and against us. Of course, I respect every opinion. However, some of the first people who came up to the stage to congratulate us, voted against us (laughs). It's not a problem, it's just funny.

How fast did you have to adapt to the new position?

Right after the holidays, I met Kristaps at the SA room. He opened the safe, showed all of the contracts and documents, and said: „OK, I leave you now. Any questions, you know my phone. For now, just get to know the documents.” And that's how the first weeks went: reading, and reading, and reading through all the papers. Now, after two months, I still understand perhaps about 70% of how the organization truly operates.

Which is your biggest success as of yet?

Many, many things. Establishing a healthy relationship with Prorektor Diana Pauna was very important, as was getting more people involved in SA work. But the events, Winter Symposium and Valentine day's party... When I was standing near the DJ and made him turn down the basses as neighbors were complaining, I saw people dancing. The dancefloor was full. That's when you get the satisfaction.

What are your hobbies?

I have played hockey for 12 years and still do it, although not at a very serious level; then I would have to go play abroad and quit school. I believe I can make a greater difference with my intellect. I also love to spend time with my family.

You have been mentioned in the Gossip Pages too...

There are people who support me, and there are those who don't. Sometimes people come up and ask: „hey, how you read this and that?” The response I usually give is: „Yeah, I ran through it, but at the moment I have too many other things to do to even worry about it.”



INSIDE THE RIDE: THW BAN REEXAMS

The ride through university years is not easy; it is filled with controversial decisions, often made by someone else. Reexams certainly qualify. Some are thankful for them, as it allows to finish SSER; others find it discouragable since it promotes procrastination. Where there's a disagreement, there's a debate! This hot new Debate Club column will try to find an answer: should we change the status quo?

THE PROPOSITION (by Auguste Levcenkaityte)

This house believes that re-exams in SSE Riga are detrimental for the studying environment. They make studying more inefficient, students careless about their studies and does not put pressure to study hard enough. So for those reasons we believe that re-exams should be banned.

Almost everyone in his or her lives has been sick during an exam hence have been incapable of performing well. However, we do not see this as a justification for all the students that fail exams on purpose to get a better score in re-exams. We say that this creates unequal opportunities for students to have good grades that will be crucial in getting grants and applying for future studies. For example, FA's exam due to a mistake was past by barely 40 students. Those who passed it, got relatively lower scores than they could have in a mistake-free re-exam, which is unfair and demotivates students to seek for good results.

We say that re-exams make students less motivated to study. If there is no real threat of being expelled (IDs dating back to 2006 say it all), people feel less eager to study. Why to study if one can take and retake the course till is lucky enough to finally pass? Not everyone is so conscious about having shining grades and drinking wine in France on exchange. Some just prefer to have carefree studies. Studying is a more time-consuming option than to just show up for a re-exam and try one's luck. Not having re-exams would make passing the course more difficult and would create a possibility of not graduating on time, hence would put pressure on people to study harder.

THE OPPOSITION (by Ruta Gabalina)

I'm sure all of us have some stance on the issue that we are dealing with today. This is one of those topics that clearly divides SSE Riga students with hardly anyone left saying: "I don't care." I want to address the issue of those who fail on purpose since it is brought up so often, the core aim of educational institutions and how many of the factors that can contribute to a fail can be close to impossible to account for.

Firstly, as already mentioned, most re-exam takers don't achieve high scores, however, that is not an argument for disregarding this issue completely. This problem can be fixed with other measures, such as the one used in Academic English or a milder policy when excellent scores become impossible for those taking the exam for the 2nd time.

Secondly, studying for a re-exam will always mean sacrificing the time you have available for the current courses. Serial re-exam takers end up studying less efficiently and if it is top score they are going for this seems counter-intuitive. As for showing up and just not handing in work, I will agree that some measures should be taken.

We have to face up to the fact that the core purpose of university is to make sure that the students comprehend the things within the curriculum and such things like exams are there to provide evaluation of that knowledge and incentives for learning to happen well. If a student fails and that is the end of it, then that person never has reason to actually learn the thing he/she failed at. This harms future academic performance as well as work performance and the academic credibility of the university.

We say that if we did not have re-exams and the only option was to retake the whole course, and then people would learn more, which would increase the quality of studies. The situation is that those who fail a course did not get it right in the first place: sometimes they do not have enough pressure to study enough or feel bad during the day and do not go to doctor, but in majority of cases people just cannot keep up with the course and have knowledge gaps. Just taking re-exam and succeeding to pass will not increase their level of knowledge. If people had to retake the course, they would be able to learn the course, not just pass without any new tangible knowledge.

So because people would study more, the equality and quality would increase, we believe that re-exams have to be banned!

A re-exam that you have to pass at some point creates that motivation for learning. This is also why it makes sense to give this chance at re-exams to those that fail and not everyone.

Another important thing to address is that not all factors we can control for, apart from sickness, there are also people that achieve low scores because of, for example, anxiety, emotional issues. The knowledge of this being ones only chance makes such things worse.

To summarize, it seems clear that re-exams actually serve a valid purpose and cannot be dismissed as just for being 'unfair'. Sure, life doesn't give second chances, but if we want the students to make correct decisions the first time around when they exit the university, we must make sure they can gain the most from it while being here.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS: FIRST TIME IN LATVIA!

As some of you might have already heard LVMUN is taking place April 20th. The event will be a great opportunity for students to learn more about diplomacy, international relations and negotiations. MUN (Model United Nations) is a simulation widely spread around the world. Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Hong Kong, Rome, Lithuania- you name it, they have it. It is high time SSE Riga and Latvia had its very own simulation- LVMUN!

So what is MUN? The name says it all: MUN is a simulation of real United Nations and their committees such as the General Assembly, the Security Council and others. In MUN every delegation consisting of a few students represents a given country as real diplomants and act on country's behalf so as to best serve its interests.

What do I do in MUN? LVMUN,

just like all the MUN conferences, will have parliamentary procedure, which will be fully explained at the conference. So all you have to do is follow it. However, more important is what you reach for your country, such as monetary and military aid, getting new strategic partners and helping your allies. MUN will help to understand how to influence people to become allies and help to reach a favorable consensus.

Is LVMUN only for debators? No. Even though we love debators, MUN takes place for the first time in Riga, hence previous MUN or debating experience is not required. Moreover, co-chair will make sure that equal opportunities are given for all delegates to tell their



opinions so being a loud person will not necessarily serve your best interest. Information about the topics discussed will be provided prior to the conference. So all there is left to do is to google your country's position towards an issue and come!

We promise an amazing event: free snacks, drinks and more than 70 interesting people coming from all over the Baltics. So do not miss out on an opportunity to have your first time (in MUN, of course)!

HALF-TIME AT PEAKTIME

With the end of the preliminary rounds, the road to PeakTime finals has just begun. Yet for more than 1300 people it is all over: one too many machineries bought, one less million in marketing invested, and you're out of the top-2 (in a group of eight). This is the threshold of advancing to the next round, which proved too high even for most SSER teams. Just before the next round, a half-time at PeakTime if you will, the Insider took a glimpse in the organizer's camp with the help of Ieva Grigalūne, the Media person.

Fewer participants. But who cares if South Africans are coming?

The number of participants for the last three years has been quite steady, ranging from 1200 to 1500. This year the number of registered participants has fell down to the level of year 2010, reaching 1137 participants. The number of participants coming from South Africa has increased remarkably. Moreover, the number of participants coming from Africa has doubled, which is a great success. But, in general, the pattern of countries has stayed the same.

How Facebook helps

Promotional process was a bit of a breakdown for us, but we got around it. This year, we finally used the newest technologies and social networks fully by introducing Facebook promotion, moreover, we put a bigger emphasis on the USA, comparing to other years. Everybody was involved in the promotional process, but, of course, the biggest workload was put on our dear associates. Still, chiefs were helping them and I hope giving the best example on how the participants should be attracted and how it should be done.

Furthermore, not only the Peak Time team was involved in the promotion and spreading the

word, but also previous organizers, alumni, administration, SSER students abroad, exchanges and even our sponsors. That's why we would like to express our deepest gratitude for helping us during one of the most intense and important moments of Peak Time.

The big money checks

Peak Time has always appreciated long-term partnerships; therefore, several companies and organizations appear on our Supporter list not for the first time. The list includes our long-term partner Civitta, British Council Latvia, and BDO Zelmenis&Liberte. However, a couple of new collaborations have been started as well: Centre for Sustainable Business supports us with new ideas, while Strategy Labs will help us financially and by creating the first final case study.

However, the fundraising process is nowhere near finished. We still need to arrange food, drinks, and snacks for all our guests, take care of the accommodation and transportation

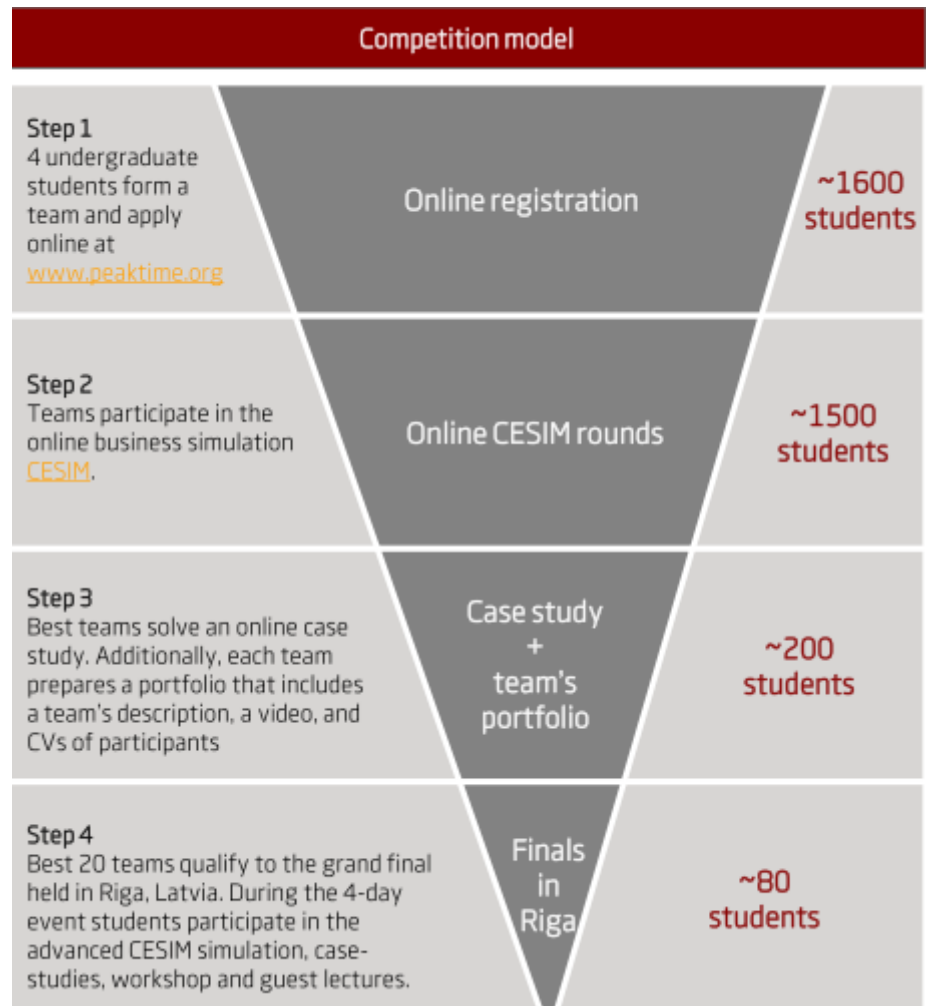
around Riga, gather nice things from Riga for the welcome package, and we also need to think of some pretty prizes to add to the big money checks. And in addition to all that, a couple more euros in our bank account also would be nice.

Chiefs vs Associates. It's coming

The full list of advices will come at the end of our term, but for now I guess the good old advice said for the millionth time: "Do not leave anything till the last moment" sums it up perfectly.

Virtual company earning millions (or losing them)

Preliminary rounds consist of two steps: Cesim business simulation and a case study. The first preliminary round (Cesim) has just ended and the first results have been announced. Basically, students are challenged to run a virtual company in a competitive environment, where they play against each other, in order to become leaders of the market.



The simulation requires and also improves students' advertising skills, basic financial skills and economic knowledge, conflict resolution, problem solving skills, report preparation, teamwork and many other abilities.

What went wrong

The changes in tasks (some participants complained that practice rounds and real rounds had two completely different case studies) were expected, as the practice round tasks were as last year, therefore in order to have more innovation, they were changed after the first rounds.

The outlook reality discrepancies (some complained that the outlook for the next period, well, didn't turn out to exact precision) were

somewhat unexpected and it was an error coming from the simulation side. We acted as quick as possible in order to reduce those errors.

Of course, we hope that it did not create much of a headache for our participants, but there are always some things you can't control, and you have to adjust for. We hope that next year could maybe be exclusion for such things!

Resting is not an option

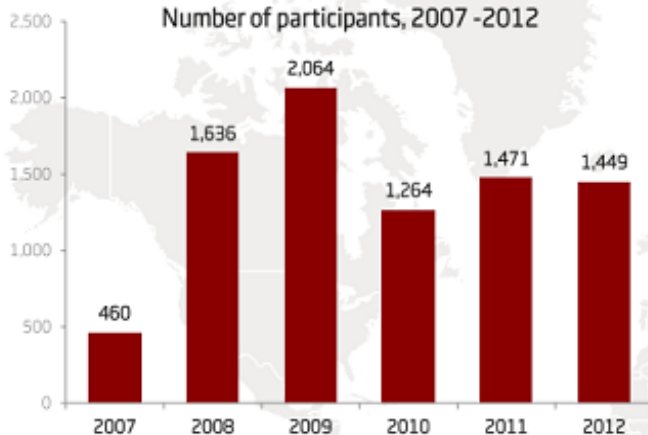
While participants are solving the case study, we have to think about accommodation, proper entertainment and living standards for our bet 80 finalists coming to Riga to compete for the main prizes and the title of the winner of Peak Time 2013.

A peek in the finals (don't tell anyone!)

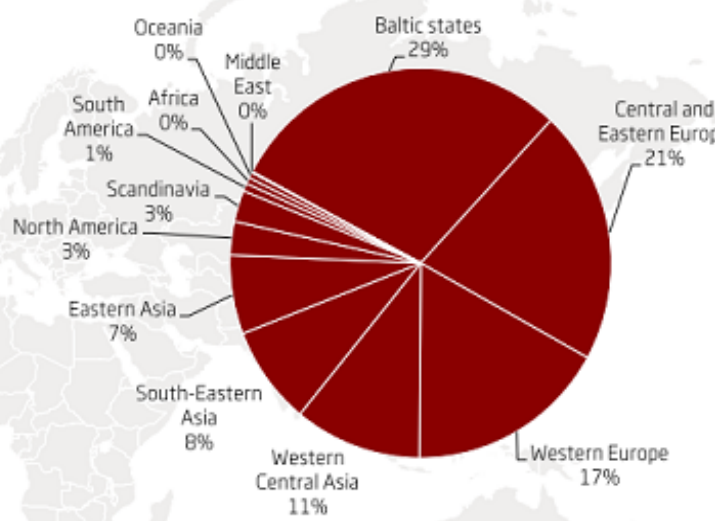
Altogether, the format won't be different, even though the theme of the case study may change. Cesim simulation may also have some innovations to test the finalists even more. The biggest difference in the finals, however, is the stressful environment, where they will have to work in. For individual participants it is even harder, since they are working in a completely new team. Before there was more time to prepare; now the time limits are much more restricting.

Moreover, broad entertainment program lets them enjoy the city and have fun, but it also puts additional stress, since the next day you have to be 100% ready for presentations and show your best.

Number of participants, 2007 -2012



Number of participants by region, 2007 -2012



Top 30 countries by number of participants, 2007 -2012



Jovin Loh, Singapore

We decided to apply after we heard about the competition from several seniors who had previously taken part in it. So far, the experience has been fairly good! The CESIM simulation was difficult to understand, but also quite interesting, as the uncertainty of making decisions against other teams makes it more realistic. We're looking forward to the case release this weekend, and will be doing a good analysis, due diligence and following recommendations. If we get into the finals, we're all booking flights to Latvia!

Bjarke Modvig Lumby, Denmark

We saw a description of PeakTime at our university's home page, and immediately decided to apply! PeakTime has so far been great and our team is doing well. The organizers have done a good job, especially considering the number of people participating. We hope to participate in the Finals in Riga! We all study in Copenhagen, so (unless they develop teleporting within the next month) we will probably go by plane.

SSE: RIGA VS STOCKHOLM.

WHICH IS BETTER?

Stockholm School of Economics gathers exceptional students in Riga and Stockholm, as well as St Petersburg. This time, the Insider takes a closer look at the Stockholm programme, comparing it to ours. This might be particularly gratifying to our fellows from Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and other non-EU countries: hey, you managed to save some 12 grands!

SSE (SWE)		SSE in Riga (LV)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU citizens: None (12 000 €, but government funds all tuition fees) • Non-EU citizens: 12 000 € 	TUITION FEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU citizens: 3500 € • Non-EU citizens: None if scholarship; 3500 €
1500 +	STUDENTS	350 +
Swedish & English	LANGUAGE	English
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics • Bachelor of Science in Retail Management 	BACHELOR DEGREE OFFERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business
EUR 880	ESTIMATED MONTHLY EXPENSES	EUR 300 - 500 +
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing I & Marketing II • Economic Analysis • Econometrics & Economic Statistics 	YEAR I (Extra courses other doesn't provide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOE • Macroeconomics • Organization & Management • Managerial Economics • Mathematics • English; Business Law
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroeconomics • Organization & Management • Management and Leadership • Financial Economics I (start of Year II) and II (end of Year II) 	YEAR II (Extra courses other doesn't provide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Econometric Antropology • Ethics and Sustainable Business • EU Studies • Market Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management • Economics • Accounting & Financial Management • Finance • Marketing 	YEAR III (CHOOSE TWO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship • Economics • Finance • Marketing
180	ECTS POINTS	187.5
5 years	MAX LENGTH OF STUDY	∞
A – F 0 – 100 points	GRADING	A – F 0 – 200 points
-	MORTEN HANSEN	+

FORGET HOLLYWOOD, MEET BERLIN!

Spring is already here, but even now some of us prefer, as one of our lectures would say, 'deep' movies to romantic comedies. To satisfy your intellectual hunger, the new movie couple (applause!) has prepared a small overview of the Berlin International Film Festival 2013. So how about you trust the cinematographic taste of Darya Dmitrieva & Nils Bukolovskis in cooperation with Wong Kar-Wai (Jury president of the Festival) and treat your eyes with some world class stuff instead of Friends, Gossip Girl or whatever Hollywood feeds you are into!

19 films from all over the world took part in the main competition, 8 of them received awards and 2 of them received special mentions. Here are the movies that received awards by the International Jury.

Family drama **Child's Pose** by Călin Peter Netzer, the representative of so-called Romanian New Wave, won the Golden Bear. The movie is about an influential woman who tries to prevent her son from being imprisoned after he kills a child in a car accident.

An **Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker** by Bosnian director Danis Tanović got Jury Grand Prix as well as Silver Bear for Best Actor Nazif Mujić. The plot is based on the story of Nazif – a man from a poor Bosnian village who earns his family living by collection scrap-metal. When his wife gets ill and close to death he has to find €500 (an unbearable sum of money for him) for her operation

The Alfred Bauer Prize went to **Vic and Flo Saw a Bear** by Denis Côté from Canada. The picture

is about lesbian lovers who are released from prison and an officer who was assigned to look after the couple.

Best Director appeared to be American David Gordon Green for his mix of drama and comedy called **Prince Avalanche**. Two workers spend the summer in solitude repainting traffic lines far from the city and something happens between them.

Silver Bear for Best Actress was awarded to Paulina García for the Chilean drama **Gloria**. It is a story about a 58 year old divorcée who tries to add some spice to her life.



Award for Best Script (Silver Bear) went to Iranian director Jafar Panahi for the drama **Pardé** (Closed Curtain). The movie tells a strange story about a writer who is hiding and has visitors during the night. The story then twists so that the director becomes the central figure of the movie but somehow connects with the other characters.

Emir Baigazin's **Harmony Lessons** received the Award for Outstanding Artistic Contributions. This movie is about a 13 year old boy, Aslan, who lives in Kazakhstan and is bullied in school. The movie shows how an idea for murder is born.

Special mentions:

Promised Land by Gus Van Sant. A salesman for a natural gas company (Matt Damon!) experiences life-changing events after arriving in a small town, where his corporation wants to tap into the available resources.

Layla Fourie by Pia Marais. Layla Fourie, a young single-mother in South Africa, receives a job assignment as a polygraphist. In the constant presence of mistrust, lies and fear Layla soon becomes a suspect herself.



NB! You can watch Side Effects and Promised Land in Forum Cinemas!

It cannot be underemphasized that if you call yourself a movie fan, you should at least watch a couple of these. It's the Berlin Festival and it happens only once a year!

We are very eager to start screening next week so visit our facebook page and give us a like, so you would not miss any news when they arrive.

INTERNSHIP THAT PAYS: SOUTHWESTERN

Bird twitters and the first rays of sun. Spring has finally come. This means that summer is just around the corner and students should start thinking about internships.

It can be quite hard to choose the right job since there are many companies and organizations offering job positions for the summer. For this reason, there are several web sites available that are designed to help students find internships. However, a student must know what he or she is interested in to make the job search easier and faster.

Although any work experience is useful, it would be very nice to get paid for the work you are doing this summer. Most interns are not paid for their work but there is a real chance to get some money from an internship if one chooses to work with Southwestern Company.

With Southwester you get a chance to work in the USA for three months, during which students live with an American host families. Some of the families let students stay at their place for free while others may charge up to 25 dollars per week. On the other hand, one cannot choose a family, city or even the state where he or she would be living during this period.

Daily job at Southwestern includes visiting different households and offering families with kids to purchase educational books that are useful for all scholars starting from preschool children and up to high school students.



Since many people are skeptical towards sales people who come to their houses, it takes a certain set of skills and knowledge to get invited into their homes and preside with the sell by giving more detail on the product. This is the main reason why not everyone who is interested in this job position can receive it.

In Southwestern they are looking for people who are interested in helping others and who want to learn. One of the characteristics that this company values the most is being teachable. A person must want to develop different skills, be open-minded and have a very positive attitude towards working.

During the course of this internship, students will face many challenges every day. Firstly,

the environment and climate differ significantly from the ones in the Baltics. Secondly, people there have an absolutely different mentality and the things that look bizarre to an intern from SSE Riga could be just a part of the daily life for an American family. Lastly, for someone who had never engaged in a door-to-door sales job this experience would be a shocking one at first, but enjoyment will be found eventually.

This internship can make a person grow in character and mature, broaden ones horizons and develop excellent communication skills. It is an experience of a lifetime and offers different opportunities that no other could present.



For more information visit southwesternadvantage.com or find the nearest SW intern.

TURKEY ERASMUS

Be ready for an exciting interview about an exchange semester full of adventures in Turkey! Year-three student Andrius Petronis kindly agreed to share his exchange experience with “the Insider” readers.

Stay stunned!

What traditional dish you tasted and enjoyed the most in Turkey?

I would say that there are a lot of great dishes in Turkey that are worth tasting at least once. Personally, I really enjoyed the so called Cig Kofte, which is in a way similar to our Kebabs, but much spicier and has a rather unique taste. Also, it is usually served with Ayran, a traditional drink in Turkey. All in all, it is a quite cheap and popular dish among the locals, which you can buy at every corner in the city, and I will really miss it here in the Baltics.

What was the most memorable event you experienced during your exchange program?

I would say that the most memorable event was a boat trip arranged by our Erasmus coordinators. We visited four incredible bays with crystal clear water, tasted some excellent food and drinks and saw a belly-dance performed by a transvestite.

Which place you would recommend to visit in Turkey?

There were some trips arranged by our Erasmus coordinators. Some of them were for free, others were relatively cheap. For me, it was interesting to visit Pamukkale, a unique natural cascade, made from white rocks, with warm geothermic

water inside. Also, the view from the top is amazing.

How was the partner university different from SSE Riga?

It was different in all kinds of ways, because Ege University is really huge compared to SSE Riga, and has many faculties on the same campus. Therefore, administrative processes are usually quite slow, which might be irritating for our students. Also, studies were much easier with more individual work, only one real lecture per week and relatively simple exams. So, it might be an option for those, who would like to relax or concentrate on their BSc Thesis.

What was the craziest thing you did in Turkey?

I would say that the craziest experience was getting from Istanbul to Izmir. As it turned out, trains are not always going according to the schedule in Turkey and I ended up in an unknown city in the middle of the night, with no ways to connect a local friend who I was supposed to meet. Luckily, everything went well and I did not have to sleep in the park with my entire luggage.

Who was the funniest/most interesting person you have met?

It was really funny to meet some stereotypic Erasmus students from Europe, for instance, an Italian guy who lives in Sardinia and works as a chef at a lasagna restaurant. However, it was more interesting to talk with Turkish people. Most of them, especially the young ones, are willing to leave their country and move to Europe, Australia, or the USA, hate their government and are able to become good friends with anyone really fast.

Disregarding studies, what have you learnt during your stay?

I would say that local businesses are excellent at making a connection with customers, which encourages them to come back over and over again. For instance, in every shop or restaurant the staff was smiling and willing to help, which I sometimes miss a lot in the Baltics. Also, the daily life tends to be less stressful, as Turkish people always try to find time for their friends and family members.

Were you able to learn Turkish during your stay?

I could not manage to learn Turkish properly, because I was not taking any additional courses at the university. On the other hand, we had local friends, who taught us some basic words, which was enough for going to the bazaar, or asking for help. Also, people in Izmir were so friendly and it was not a big problem to communicate with gestures or some international words, even though they usually do not know any foreign languages at all.

Was the exchange program better or worse than expected of you?

I would say that I got exactly what I expected from this semester at Ege University. I had a lot of free time, saw some interesting places, but most importantly, I was able to meet so many different individuals. Also, it was a great experience to feel this cultural shock and manage to adapt while being so far from home.

Could you refute one stereotype about Turkey?

I would say that people in Europe are too afraid of Muslims, as it is a stereotype of them being terrorists, who want to destroy our culture. At least in Izmir, I have never felt scared of being a foreigner, as everyone was really friendly and helpful.

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 ;)

They say economists have rather weak legs.

They say Georgian girls... They say MISSION IMPOSSIBLE...

They say Guntar L(Y2) went even to the Eros party to attract girls to sell books.

Lithuanians get drunk and get inspired with writing gossips.

They say some things in SSE Riga that motivate people to be rats, but some people don't need to be motivated.

They say everyone wants a piece of Christopher :D

Some say that the meaning of red color, when it comes to restrooms, should be added in the newcomers guide, otherwise it seems like the school is full of retarded monkeys, who doesn't understand the definition of occupied.

So you were planning to take some re-exams this spring? Lets have 2 courses at the same time first.

O&M: teaches you to organize, can't even organize its own course.

SSE Riga style: hook up in the parties, ignore in the lectures.

Little Pilinko and Kipras should stop dating secretly.

After FE only one thing can be said: Y2, your stupidity sometimes has no limits...

They say go to Juhaan (Y1) (spell the name backwards).

Funny how only 0.5% of the gossip that goes around SSE Riga ends up on the black pages, but that's the exact 0.5% that makes people angry.

They say Andrej (Y2) is nocturnal.

They say some people (that hang out with Alex) deserve a poke...in the eye...with a spear.

They say the day Guzun will grow some b***s will be the day they construct the space elevator.

They say the list of all-purpose Macro answers is as follows: 1, 0, close to 0, up, down, yes, Estonia.

They say that too many Y2 guys are starting to date with Y1s.

They say that not only SA Presidents should strip, but Vice Presidents as well.

They say Evgenia (Y1) is the new Estere (Y3).

They say that FE exam was so hard that studying had a negative net present value, that the time invested in studying was not worth it. Way to go, Dr. Putnins.

They say Nerijus looks de-li-cious in a tight T-shirt.

They say Mr. Dzenis is too old to attend the parties. ;)

They say you don't get any more douchebag than RGSL.

They are wondering what Aleksejs(Y3) smokes before Macro seminars.

"Believing yourself to be better than others and showing that of will make you a respected and well-known person" said no one ever, but someone heard. Paradox.

They say that Y2 hope for a huge adjustment :(

They say no one knows who the Estonians are anymore..

At the party angel-Evgenia was so burning hot as if she was straight from the hell.

They say "the Sigulda guy" although not being from a prestigious business school is actually the most efficient person in Finance. He at least receives money for listening to Peter.

They say it will be a great success if Henrijs (Y''+∞'') gets an SSE diploma before his children do.

They say that students taking FE course behave like noise traders - rumor about one part in the exam being many times tougher than any other spread around faster than one could imagine.

They say Y2s go to organization meetings when they don't have FE. Y1s go to organization meetings when they have nothing else to do.

They say speed-dating has a new definition since the LOE guest lecture.

They say that the Insider team have never heard about such thing as censorship.

They say Kipras(Y1) and Kristians(Y1) should make a sprint on crutches. Brutal, but fun.

They say some people are so miserable in their stupidity. It's easier for them to blame TA's for not being able to understand something. It's doubtful that any of those arrogant "smart asses" will actually pass.

They say that it takes less time to elect the pope than for the administration to calculate FE adjustment.

Lithuanians do nothing but chat about others.

They say Kiril(Y1) is the best candidate for Gossip Girl position.

They say Dasha is too busy.

They say geeks hang out in the library and this has no reference to students whatsoever.

They say the best party is when RGSL is not invited.

They say that current Y3s are the last generation of decent SSERigans who enjoyed all the former joys of being a student at SSE Riga. No restrictions on booking rooms and food and as many overnights as we needed! Y1s and Y2s - learn how to behave well! :P

They are not sure where Raitis, Helvijs and Arturs buy their UGGs. Which female shoe store has such big size selection?!

They say one can observe a huge market inefficiency with the gossips. Luckily, markets are efficient and gossips will be brought back to fundamentals. Risk-free arbitrage, B*tch.

They say DAMN!

They say some seats in Soros are haunted.

They say that the last Insider was a real "masterpiece".

They say Coca-Cola is not good for your health.

They say Māra (Y1) is getting continuously pounded by Anatolijs (Y4).

In the same time Arturs (Y3) is best friends with Natalija, however he is not alone, the same goes for Roberts, Jefgenijs, Voldemars and Gera.

They say Mikelis likes the D.

They say that Artūrs (Y2) is best friends with Ineta.

The say Alfons (Y3) is quite the ladies man and spends a lot of his time in TutiFruti club.

They say that Maša (Y2) likes Kaša (Faculty).

They say there is quite the sexual tension between Yuris (Y2) and Margaret (Y1) observed in the dorms.

They say that Ramona (Y3) is the new Irina of the russian community.

They say Darja should answer when called.

They say that because regressions on STATA take too long, Laura and Kārlis (Y3) had to find a way to entertain themselves.

They say February was the month of hate (in gossip page) brought to you by Toms and Evgenia haters.

They say watching freeriders trying to get into macro teams is comedy on its own.

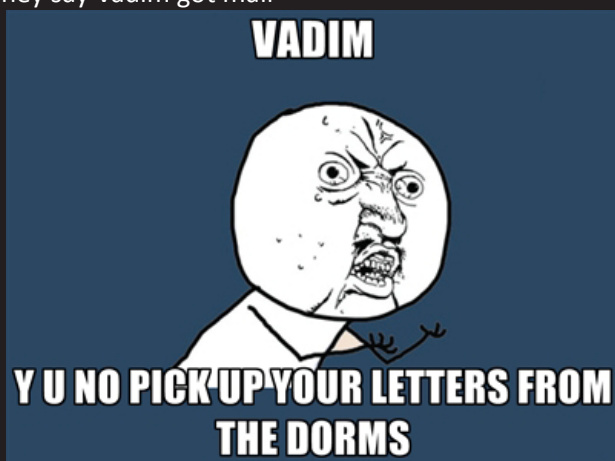
They say Markus's Chinese is horrible. Sincerely, room 4.

They say Y1s are trying to make love to the Macro book, but it has a headache.

They say the internet connection at SSER is like a woman. There always seems to be something wrong and you're kinda related to it. And once per month, there is something TERRIBLY wrong and it's all your fault.

They say Kyrilo steals ideas like Lithuanians steal food.

They say Vadim got mail



They say what happens in Cologne, stays in Cologne. Right, Jesus (Y3)?

They say you know it's one of those intense days when your friend tells you: "Don't stay up too late, we have Macro in 6 hours"

They say after the great muffin distribution, no one has heard anything from Leif Muten Society.

They say, on the Green Thursday, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit rolled a joint

They say that some people just don't have the social skills necessary for an Investment Banking career.

Additional FE diaries entry:

I am writing now, after finance is over, to share my experience about the best and the worst moments of the past two months. Funnily enough, I can say that both experiences coincided with the arrival of an unexpected guest (Y3). I won't mention his name. All I can say is that he is both known for "good" and "bad". In general, he's a good chap.

Every morning during finance were memorable due to the previously mentioned person. His moaning, groaning and swearing during waking hours was the funniest thing ever. It seemed as if he was the one taking the finance course, not us (whereas he didn't).

And, of course, the worst thing that a "host" can ever do is make assumptions about the guest's presence in the dormitory. Assuming he's out, lock the door, and don't come back until the late evening. That would probably be a terrible experience for anyone. Isn't it Justinai?

They say Goba, good guy Goba.

They say we need more guys from Sweden, they really light up the mood around here ;)

As nice as Natalja Tarasevich is, she could probably tame wild beasts.

They say people can feel an aura of pure happiness while being around Maija Pole.

Cristina T. (Y1) always brightens up everyone's day.

Victoria Pilinko is truly beautiful.

Lukas and Lynna make for the cutest couple in school.

The say you don't get prettier than Julia (Y1).

They say Mr Paalzow is the friendliest rector in the Baltics.

Cristina M. is really nice and doesn't talk sh*t behind others back. Respect.

They say Toms N. has a nice beard.

APRIL

- 9 April – the final event of competition Superpuika 2013 in Riga Circus
- 12 April - Ruki Vverh concert in Concert Hall Studio 69
- 16 April – premiere of performance “Antigone” in Dailes Theater
- 17 April - L’Oreal Professionnel collection spring/summer 2013 fashion event in The Latvian Railway history museum
- 19 April - premiere of performance “Gone with the Wind” in Dailes Theater
- 20 April – Serebro concert in Concert Hall Studio 69
- 20 April - Billys Band concert in Riga Congress Centre
- 20 April -18. International Baltics Balet Festival Ping Pong concert in The Latvian National Opera House
- 21 April - Igor Guberman comedy event in Splendid Palace
- 24 April – 13th Rigas Ritmi Festival A. Spell concert in the club Kalku varti
- 25 April - Riga Jazz Stage 2013 International Jazz artists competition in Kino Splendid Palace
- 25 April – the memorial Imants Ziedonis concert in Riga Congress Centre
- 25 April - Stroks and tango, waltzes and romances Russian music event in restaurant Austrumu robeza
- 26 April - 13th Rigas Ritmi Festival Latvijas Radio bigbend and Jojo Mayer concert in Riga Congress Centre
- 27 April- premiere of performance “Lilioms” in Latvian National Theatre
- 27 April - 13th Rigas Ritmi Festival Naturally 7 concert in Riga Congress Centre
- 28 April – charity concert for the Liktdarzs in Lielā Gilde1 May - Lord of the Dance concert in Arena Riga

MAY

- 3 May- premiere of performance “Ziedonis. Bear. Womans.” in Dailes Theater
- 3 May – dancing performance Mauglis in the Kipsala International Exhibition Centre
- 4 May – Dancing Festival Magic Dance 2013 in the Kipsala International Exhibition Centre
- 10 May - Sunrise Avenue concert in Sapnu Fabrika
- 12 May – Michael Bolton concert in Arena Riga
- 15 May – musical Pjotr Dranga concert “Shout” in Riga Congress Centre
- 18 May - Museum Night 2013



Laima Maršāne

**Consultant
Assurance**

Joined Ernst & Young as
Intern, November 2011

SSE Riga Graduate

What was your perception of Ernst & Young before you joined us?

Ernst & Young is a professional services company, being part of which would benefit my future career a lot. I thought that working in Ernst & Young was all about hard work and professional development.

How did that change when you started your internship with Ernst & Young?

The overall perception did not change; however, I got to know the "human" side of the Firm. I experienced the work here is not only about numbers, calculations and being serious and professional, but also about building relationships with both clients and colleagues. I was surprised about the dynamics of the work, because clients and teams change all the time and the work is never boring.

Can you please describe your regular day at work?

Each day is different. Usually in the morning I go to the office and meet with the client team. Then we all together go to the client's office and work there, communicating with client's managers and finance people. In the evening we return to the office and finalize tasks. Some of our clients are located outside Riga and even abroad, in which case we go for business trips to client's sites and stay there until the project is completed.

Can you please share your most exciting experience in Ernst & Young?

I am more of the finance person, my most interesting experience was being part of the audit team of a bank. It allowed me to understand all the hard business processes of a financial institution better and use theoretical knowledge I had previously gained at SSE Riga. Another exciting experience is stock takes, especially at an alcohol factory and in a port.

What would you advise to everyone when deciding on their future career?

I would advise to find the real career path that you are interested in. Never be afraid to experiment, find the best place where you fit in and feel good, because only then you will be able to succeed!

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