

# NEWSLETTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prepared by: SZIU – Office of International Relations  
October of 2009

*Dear Reader,*

*Another school term has passed, and summer has ended. Since the last newsletter we have had a lot of new experiences, as our international connections couldn't "go on holiday." During the last three months we organized 3 summer university courses in Gödöllő alone.*

*We hope our readers will be satisfied with the new articles. We would like to thank our colleagues, teachers and students for their help and their work by which they enriched our newsletter.*

*We wish You a pleasant reading time!*

*The editors*

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES / VISITING DIPLOMATS

### SYNERGY AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

International Conference In Agricultural Engineering

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of Szent István University, the CIGR Hungarian National Committee, the Hungarian Electrical Engineering Association and the Agricultural Engineering Board of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences organized an international conference in agricultural engineering between 30<sup>th</sup> of August and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September in Gödöllő, titled **"Synergy and technical development."**

There were almost 200 registered participants in the conference, including teachers, researchers and students from 30 countries. Our foreign guests came from Europe and Asia. We have to emphasize the large number of Turkish participants, there were 15 of them. This increased interest is a sign



of the high recognition and respect for Szent István University not just within the borders of the European Union, but well beyond.

There were two main subjects of the conference, within which the organizers arranged 6 sections with lectures. Within the theme of **"Synergy and technical development"** the listed topics were the following: synergy between the agriculture and industry, energetics, education and research, crop and horticultural production systems, post harvest technologies, animal husbandry, measuring techniques, fundamental research for agricultural engineering, economics of agricultural production, forest engineering, food engineering, renewable energy resources and raw materials, mechanical engineering, maintenance and machinery management.



During the whole event the CIGR IV. section kept its international symposium with the title **"Rational use of energy in agriculture**

**and economical use of renewable resources in connection with environmental protection”.** The topics covered were: solar energy, geothermal energy, biomass energy, heat pumps and the possibility of agricultural farms becoming energy producers rather than energy consumers by using renewable resources and hybrid power-plants of regenerative energies.

The conference events started with the registration on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, which was followed by a welcome party in the Museum of Agricultural Machinery. The official program began on Monday, with a plenary session in the great hall of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. *Prof. Dr. László Solti*, Rector, welcomed the participants, followed by *Dr. János Beke*, Vice-Rector, *Dr. István Szabó*, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and *Dr. Tamás Bíró*, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Director of the Potsdam Leibniz-Institute of Agrartechnik also spoke. The professional segment of the conference lasted for 3 days, during which the guests could also experience an array of interesting cultural programs, such as visits the town center and an organ concert in the chapel of the Gödöllő Royal Castle. The foreign participants also had a whole day program in Budapest.



During the conference participants could take part in a one-day or two-day study tour, during which they first visited Bábolna, Ács, Mosonmagyaróvár and Pannonhalma, then the towns of Kulcs, Paks, Szekszárd and Baja showed their specialties to the visitors. During those study tours some sponsors of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering were introduced to the guests.



Our foreign guests enjoyed the excellent professional and cultural experiences during their stay in Hungary very much. They emphasized the high level of organization, which made the conference stand out in terms of quality.

#### **A Visit from the Leaders of Kafr el-Sheik University, Egypt. May, 2009.**

With the leadership of the vice-rector, *Prof. Dr. Ibrahim M. Aman*, an Egyptian delegation visited our university from Kafr El-sheik University, Kafr el-Sheik, Egypt, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The other members of the official delegation were *Prof. Dr. N. M. Mehanay*, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and *Prof. Dr. Farouk El-Aid*, representative of the Department of Vegetable Production.

During the program the visitors and members of Szent Istvan University exchanged information about their respective institutions and discussed different possibilities for cooperation. The meeting was arranged and coordinated by *Dr. Zsuzsanna Tarr*, head of the Office of International Affairs. During the discussion *Prof. Dr. Ibrahim M. Aman* vice-rector emphasized the intention of their institution to create an agreement of cooperation between the two universities. He also mentioned that stronger cooperation should be achieved in the fields of students' exchange, finding new financial sources as well as new possibilities for mutual research.

As a result of the visit, a general cooperation agreement was created by the wishes of the rectors of Kafr el-Sheik and Szent Istvan University.

## FACULTY EVENTS

### **NATURA General Assembly in Szent István University in April**

by *Ákos Bodnár*, assistant lecturer, Faculty of  
Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

This year Szent István University gave space to the general assembly of the NATURA Networking for Development international association, between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April. The 3 day event took place in the dean's board room of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Our university has long been an active member of the NATURA organization. NATURA is for many tropical and sub-tropical agricultural study and research institutions from 18 European countries. The network has almost 30 members, and its main purpose is to diminish, by use of the means of education and research, poverty and hunger in less-developed countries. It initiates international programs in the so called ACP countries (Africa – Central-America – Pacific Ocean region) together with the similar profile institutions. The main purpose of these programs is to mutually solve appearing problems in connection with agricultural technology transfer, research and improvement, as well as education in general. As the NATURA organization is continuously searching for new partners in the ongoing and future programs, it is a very good chance for us to cooperate in the fields of certain research and educational projects.

This year there came 19 experts representing 15 European member institutions to our general assembly. There were the members of the *Vienna BOKU University* there, people from the *Wageningen University and Research Center*, from the *Catania University*, colleagues coming from the *Spanish National Improvement and Technology Office*, as well as some Finnish, Danish, French and German university professionals. There were some participants from the less-developed countries too. From Uganda and Kenya representatives from *The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture*, which is an organi-

zation for African agricultural universities, attended.



Just before the general assembly happened an evaluation was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April in connection with the mutual NATURA and RUFORUM educational projects. During this meeting the participants discussed the possibilities of the improvement of international teacher-student programmes.

*Dr. Zsuzsanna Tarr*, head of the International Office, informed the participants about the faculty education forms and opportunities, as



well as an overview of the international teacher/ student/ staff mobility programs. *Dr. György Füleki*, institution head, and *Ákos Bodnár*, assistant lecturer, both focused on those education-research projects (renewable energy, soil- and water usage, horticultural technologies, agricultural economy, biotechnology, etc.) in connection with which the different faculties of our university can play an important role regarding the new NATURA projects.

The official general assembly of the NATURA association was held on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. This meeting was truly important from many points of view: not only was

a new president elected by the members, but also a decision was made that NATURA would unite with ECART (European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics). The results of this will be a new name: AGRI-NATURA, plus a new organizational structure. This way hopefully new fields of possibilities will be opened both in education and research.

At the end of the event the African guests could visit some outstanding parts of Gödöllő, such as the Royal Castle.

### **We were in Vechta**

by *Adrienn Papp*, student of the faculty of Applied Arts

We (*Veronika Huszár, Ágnes Krancsevics, Orsolya Tóth and Adrienn Papp*) spent 4 months with Erasmus Cooperation in North Germany at the University Vechta.

Vechta is not so far from city Bremen. When we were in Vechta, we learned a lot about the German culture. In our free time we traveled a lot. We saw a lot of beautiful places and see sights. We could meet other students from all over the world. We learned about the Chinese, Russian, German etc. cultures.



It was really useful. Now we have better language skills and it was a good experience for us. I recommend that everyone go abroad because it is really an adventure.



Thanks for this experience!

### **A report about a study tour in Germany**

by *Miklós Palatinus*, student of informatics and administration engineering, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (Jun of 2009)

Why do you think, dear reader, in old ages footmen before becoming masters went on a “world tour?” Do we miss it from the logics of university education in the case of MSc studies? Yes, we do.

Naturally many people have the chance to do so, but not so many volunteer at once to go for the unknown. It is probably just the fear of unknown which blocks a lot of people from realizing those possibilities which are easily available in studying abroad.

It was very simple in the old times. Those who wanted to become masters had the hard task of going abroad. Basically this was considered as a certain personal quality assurance of the day.

How much did students miss these study tours in the past? We could easily get the answer if we asked those ten participants, BSc informatics and engineers, who were members of this visit. Only one of them was abroad before, but none of them could have any study tours or could study abroad at all.



Knowing these facts we really have to think the improvement of such education over.



Reputation gaining and building of new relationships have primary importance for the universities themselves, while students



consider new connection-building or finding new ways of getting a good job (either in

Hungary or abroad) to be more important. It is also very useful for the students to improve their language abilities abroad, which also assists in their process of working to find a



good job.

Erasmus exchange students in Germany

## SUMMER COURSES IN 2009

By the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2009, *Dr. Zsuzsanna Tarr*, head of the Office of International Relations handed in two applications to organize university summer courses; both of which were successfully approved and implemented. The courses were developed in association with the *Agriculture and Environment in the 21st Century* network.

### CEEPUS Summer course

2009 HU-03 @groen Network - *“Reproduction and Breeding of Freshwater Native Fish Species.”*  
by *Magdolna Trenovszki*, faculty engineer  
(SZIU, Department of Fish Culture)

In 2008, the first summer course of the Department of Aquaculture focused on freshwater fishery and its management. During that course there were 13 students from six Central and Eastern European countries. The CEEPUS Summer course of this year about reproduction and breeding of freshwater fish species was organized by the Department of Aquaculture again. This year, from July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 05<sup>th</sup>, the course was sponsored by Central European Exchange Program for University Studies (CEEPUS) and TEMPUS Public Foundation, and it was

also supported by European Aquaculture Society (EAS) and EAS Student Group (EAS-SG). The 10-day-long course had several presentations about natural and



induced reproduction, juvenile growing, fish biology, invasive fish species, nutrition and development of larvae. There were 11 lecturers from the department and 3 visiting professors. The guest professors were the following: *Ferenc Baska*, PhD. associate professor of Department of Pathology and Forensic Veterinary Medicine; *Miklós Mézes*, DSc. professor and head of Department of Nutrition, and *László Horváth*, professor and Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. During the classes of sperm cryopreservation, African catfish breeding and fish anatomy, the 22 participants could be active members of the event in a way that they could put into practice what they studied in theory. To introduce our departmental staff to the participants, an angling competition was organized, too. The course also included a tour to the Fishing Museum in a Hungarian fish farm of Aranypony Zrt., where there is freshwater fish farming on an area of 1.500 ha.



On the last day the international and educational vice-rector, *János Beke*, PhD, gave the opening remarks at the ceremonial closing in addition to speeches by *Béla Urbányi*, department head and *Dr. Zsuzsanna Tarr*, head of the International Office.



During the closing event Hungarian traditional food was served to the participants by the Bojtár Csárda.

### **Summer Course at the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences**

by *Dóra Újvári*, PhD candidate of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

At the FAES an irregular Summer Course was organized by the Institute of Wildlife Conservation and Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry. The course, financed by the way of CEEPUS for foreign students, was interesting because the participants were able to experience interdisciplinary education, which included among other things sustainable land use, soil conservation, sustainable silviculture, solutions for wildlife management regarding environmental changes and gained knowledge of game management data and the collection and processing of it.

Many people were interested in the course. Applications exceeded the maximum capacity of 25 students. The great majority of the participants arrived from Romania, but there were also students from Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia and Austria. The participants were satisfied with the organization and the organizers' assistance. The topics were found to be interesting by all who attended. The students found the

lecturers well prepared and understood the coursework.

As fieldwork they went to Babatpuszta, where they heard lectures about treatments of habitats. They also learned about the problems of different soil types and the management of such from the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry. The participants sampled typical Hungarian dishes at the Lazar Equestrian Park, in Domonyvölgy. The course was found interesting and technically very useful by the students.

There was also an intensive program, organized within the framework of the Erasmus program. The program took place between August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. Its main topic was agricultural lobbying. There were 22 students from many countries including France, Denmark, Slovakia and Poland. During this event not just the host institution gave lectures, but partner universities also supplied some very experienced and interesting professors.

It is very important to emphasize that March the Office of Foreign Relations introduced a new method to make the participants be able to evaluate their teachers and courses. This is a special anonymous on-line questionnaire. This tool is useful in helping Szent Istvan University to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to plan for the future and supply students with the highest quality education available.

## VISITING PROFESSORS

*Dr. Grazyna Karmowska*, the dean of the University of Agricultura in Szczecin (Poland), Faculty of Economics and Organization of Food Economy, visited the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, where she met the dean of the Faculty, *Dr. László Villányi*, and *Dr. Lajos Szabó*, member of the faculty board of foreign affairs.

During their discussion they had the following topics: a possible future cooperation between the two faculties and the establishment of a bilateral agreement under

the Erasmus program in order to exchange students and teachers.

In addition, *Dr. Szabó* was invited by the *Dr. Karmowska* to give a lecture based on his Gödöllő geographical courses to the Szczecin students.



*Dr. Consol Blanch*

professor of the Catalan Vic University, Spain

*Dr. Blanch* came to SZIU as an Erasmus professor, and stayed here between 29<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>. Our guest is specialized on food industry and she is a teacher of the Institution of Environmental Sciences and Food Industry in the Catalan Vic University, which is located in the north-easternmost part of Spain. Here the professor gave lectures about air-quality control, focusing on possible sources of air pollution. Our guest visited some laboratory research courses and she also discussed possible future cooperation between the two universities both in education and research.

*Dr. Consol Blanch* said she had had a very positive experience during her stay here. She was very impressed by the quality of the educational programs and the professionalism of the researchers who she was in contact with.

### **Luther Waters' Szent Istvan Experience**

*Dr. Luther Waters, Jr.* Professor of Horticulture,  
Auburn University, USA

Over the last six years, my wife *Diane* and I have enjoyed tremendous hospitality and cooperation with many people and programs at Szent Istvan University, not only at the Gödöllő campus but also other campuses across the region including Szarvas, Budapest, and Jaszbereny.



*Luther Walters*

professor from Auburn University, Alabama, USA

I have worked with *Dr. Gyulai Gabor*, in Gödöllő, over several years in research and teaching in the ERASMUS program and continue these activities currently. In addition, we have worked effectively with the Office International Affairs to encourage administrators and professors from Auburn University to visit Szent Istvan University to explore long term possibilities for collaboration and cooperation.

So far, two new programs are developing with music education and teacher training. We have also had strong cooperation with the Hungarian Agricultural Biotechnology Center and *Dr. Jenes Barnabas*, Deputy Director of the Center. In addition, I have been awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to work in Faculty of Water and Environmental Management at Szarvas for the fall semester of 2009. I will continue to cooperate with *Dr. Gyulai* and the ERASMUS program in Gödöllő and encourage visits by professors and others from Auburn University.

The people we have interacted with over the last six years are all very creative, innovative and productive in both research and teaching. They have trained students who have become leaders in Hungary and will continue to be a major support base for a wide range of industries across Hungary. For agriculture, in particular, the relationship between Szent Istvan University and the agricultural industry is critical to long term profitability and viability.

It has been an honor to have had these relationships over the last six years and look forward to maintaining these collaborations and friendships.

### **Dr. Parr's Szent Istvan Experience**

*Brian Parr, PhD,* Agricultural Education,  
Auburn University

On April 29th and 30th, I had the distinct pleasure of visiting the Gödöllő campus of St. Istvan University. I thoroughly enjoyed the campus tours as well as the conversations with faculty members and administrators. While on the campus, I had the opportunity to speak with *Andras Emokey* and *Eva Fekete-Szakos*, professors in the agricultural education program. I hope to develop a collaborative partnership with these faculty members that will result in international student projects and future visits for students and faculty from both St. Istvan and Auburn Universities. In addition, I enjoyed the opportunity to lodge in the student facility. The facility is very comfortable and, most importantly, staying there provided me with several interesting conversations in the evenings with students who were very friendly and hospitable. I also enjoyed a tour of the Castle in Gödöllő. The rich heritage and history of Gödöllő provided me with many hours of discovery. In addition to the castle, I also attended a horse show in the park where I conversed with fellow equine enthusiasts and enjoyed the beauty of their horses.

Over the May Day weekend, I enjoyed many festivities in Budapest including outdoor concerts and river boat rides. Budapest is a

wonderful city with many beautiful attractions.

From May 4th-6th I enjoyed a visit to the Szarvas campus of St. Istvan coordinated by Maria Antal (thank you Maria!!). While in Szarvas I enjoyed meeting with many faculty members and hearing of their research as well as enjoying a class field trip to an organic cooperative processing facility and farm. Along the way, I enjoyed much of the Hungarian countryside. Dean Maria Takacs-Hajos provided me with an excellent overview of the structure and interests of the faculty in Szarvas and she also provided me with several excellent opportunities to experience Hungarian cuisine; I am hungry now just remembering. My stay at the university owned Panzio was excellent and I even made it out to a public bath (and a wedding by accident).

I am currently pursuing a virtual project for Dr. Emokey's students to partner with my students that I hope will develop into a greater bond between Auburn University and St. Istvan University. It is my wish that this project will help me get back to Hungary soon.

*(Dr. Brian Parr, Auburn University)*

### **PARTING THOUGHTS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS....**

Our students said they had decided to come to Hungary because they had been informed by the home foreign office to do so. They added that they were also motivated by their interests in Hungary's rich historical traditions. They had only positive information about the institution itself given by other students who already had been here in SZIU.

They said Hungarian people were very friendly in general, and they saw our nation living in a very traditional way. They also mentioned they had very much been satisfied with the help that had been given to them by the teachers here. They added they would happily come back to our university again because of the quality courses, new friendships and Szent Istvan's unparalleled surroundings in Gödöllő.