

ACADEMIC EVENTS AND INFORMATION DAYS

The GATE Green Club for Dutch and Hungarian primary school children

The Dutch town of Wageningen has a very strong connection with not only our university through the Erasmus-LLP exchange program, but it is also the oldest sister-town of Gödöllő.

Traditionally our Dutch partners send a delegation to visit us every second year; and it is also a long-lasting practice that the GATE Green Club takes an intensive part in the organization of that long weekend. It took place last year between the 1st and 4th of October.

On Friday the 2nd of October a special program was organized for Dutch and Hungarian primary schoolers, which included a nature and problem solving competition. In addition to the GATE Green Club, the Oak Environmental Protection Association, and the SZIU Departments of Animal Taxonomy, Ecology, Nature Protection and Land Ecology helped the children with their work.

The program began in the morning with the children giving lectures on the related topics, after which they visited the botanical garden and the water-tower. In the afternoon there was a competition that consisted of questions about plant identification, and healthy nutrition. This was followed by a training session on communication practices for promoting nature protection, waste recycling, and soil quality management, a bird-calling show,

and a water quality experiment just to mention some of the exciting activities.

The children were very enthusiastic during the day, and we look forward to the next program in Wageningen in 2010.

The program will return to Gödöllő again in 2011.

Study in France Information Session

On the 9th of December 2009, Bob Kaba Loemba, head of the Scholarship Office of the French Embassy visited the Gödöllő faculties of our university. He gave a presentation on the scholarship possibilities for foreign students given by the French state. The lecture was followed by an informal discussion during which the students and other visitors could ask questions about the programs. The high number of students attending was proof of the growing interest in the prospect of an international education.

www.campusfrance.org

VISITS BY DELEGATIONS

Timiriazev Agricultural University of Moscow

A delegation from the Russian State Agricultural University visited our university to take part in discussions with the rector and some of our deans between the 14th and 16th of October. The purpose of the visit was to formally renew an agreement of cooperation between the two institutions.

The Russian delegation was comprised of Dr. Vladimir M. Bautin, Rector and Dr. Marianna Yu. Gladkikh, the Head of the Department of Computer Studies. The guests were greeted with a formal reception by our Rector, Dr. László Solti. During this reception, an agreement of long term cooperation between the two universities was signed. The Rector's reception was followed by professional discussions with the deans of the three Gödöllő faculties. Following the discussions the guests took part in a sightseeing tour of Gödöllő.

The delegation was pleased to formally strengthen their ties with SZIE as our university's curriculum is a good match for theirs and offers many possibilities for mutual benefit.

Kafr El-Sheikh University, Egypt

On the 29th of October a delegation from Kafr El-Sheikh University visited our Gödöllő campus. The members of the delegation were Prof. Dr. Yousif A. Abd El-wahab, Dean of the Faculty of Trade, Prof. Dr. Osama A. Masoud, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and Prof. Dr. Farouk A. El-Aidy, professor of the Faculty of Plant Production.

We have had a signed agreement with the Egyptian university for years, and this was the second visit by the delegation in 2009.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss strengthening ties with the faculties of Mechanical Engineering and Economics and Social Sciences.

The guests were pleased by the warm reception which they received at SZIE and the high quality of our academic programs.

Josai University, Japan

On the 20th of November a delegation from the Josai University, Saitama Prefecture, Japan, led by Dr. Mizuta Norito, Rector, to the Gödöllő Campus. The delegation was welcome by Dr. László Solti, Rector, Dr. Zsuzsanna Tarr, Head of the Office of International Relations, Dr. László Vasa, Associate Professor and Mrs. Oláhné, Katalin Sápi, Expert of International Relations representing the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences.

First they had a formal discussion followed by a ceremonial signing of a declaration of agreement. This was followed by an informal discussion, where the two rectors emphasized their beliefs that they both agreed on a definite concept regarding the outstanding possibilities in active cooperation, professor and student exchange, and mutual research.

The representatives from the SZIE Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences all emphasized that the faculty wanted to actively participate in the mutual future programs of the two universities.

After the Rector's reception the guests were also welcome by the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. László Villányi.

Chinese Ministry of Education, Yunnan Province

A delegation from Yunnan province, China visited the Gödöllő campus of our university on the 6th of November, 2009. The delegation was led by Mr. He Fusheng, head of the province Ministry of Education. He was accompanied by other

education functionaries, office heads and vice-heads from the provincial authority.

The purpose of their visit was to study the Hungarian higher education and adult training systems, and they also wanted to discuss the possibilities of Hungarian-Chinese university cooperation.

During the discussion the university was represented by the members of the Office of International Relations and Tibor Mezei, Director of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Our guests were informed about the different education courses we have here at Szent István University, as well as the work of the faculties.

They expressed great curiosity about the education of foreign students; more specifically, services available, the enrollment process, tuition and other fees.

After the official program the delegation members had a tour of the Gödöllő campus.

ERASMUS COORDINATORS' MEETING IN GYULA

The annual Hungarian Erasmus coordinators' meeting took place in Gyula between the 25th and 27th of November, 2009. The meeting was hosted by the Gyula faculty of SZIE. Nearly 60 participants took part in the event to discuss the past, present and future implementation of the ERASMUS LLP program in Hungarian higher education.

There was a broad range of goals and objectives to touch on during the two-day conference.

Dr. János Puskás, Vice-Rector of Szent István University gave an opening speech to kick-off the event. Following the opening session, a discussion was held to address the topic of actual targeted applications, and the participants evaluated the feedback which came in connection with application evaluations.

Another focal point of the conference was the analysis of the work of individual applicants, the preparations of students in the application process and goals for future enrollment.

The evaluation of the general experience in connection with the LLP program was an emphasized topic, and that can also be said about the presentation on the future plans regarding the period leading up to 2013.

During the second half of the conference the floor was opened for participants to ask questions, voice concerns and to give feedback on the topics covered.



SOME SHORT NEWS

EAIE Madrid

On the 15th of September, James Dedon from the Office of International Relations went to Madrid to take part in the 21st annual *European Association for International Education* (EAIE) conference. While in Madrid, Mr. Dedon was able to meet with university and industry representatives from all over the world to discuss the current trends in the internationalization of higher education.

2009 was the first year for the “*Study in Hungary*” booth, which was a partnership of nine Hungarian universities, and turnout was impressive.



“*Study in Hungary*” at EAIE 2009

The EAIE conference is an annual event to bring together professionals in the higher education industry to share experiences and ideas for international education.

This year’s conference will take place September 15th to 18th in Nantes, France.

Visit of a FAO representative

On the 4th of November Ms Rosana Frattini, regional representative of FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organization) visited our university’s Gödöllő campus. The purpose of the visit was to have an informal discussion about FAO supported students, the entrance process and education.

Short news of the Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture

We organized an excursion for our incoming Erasmus students to Esztergom on the 11th of October. Two future Erasmus applicants were their tourist guides: Ms. Enikő Nagy and Ms Kata Pinkert

Professor Krisztina Wittek (Department of Settlement and Architecture) organized a guided tour for 36 students to Graz from the 16th to the 20th of October. They visited the Faculty of Architecture of the Graz University, and they could also experience the sights of the town. We have to mention here that some financial assistance was given to the program by the Municipality of Budapest.

A so called creative week was organized by the Department of Settlement and Architecture, during which Enikő Márton gave a lecture about “Parametrical architecture” for 30 students. Later the participants organized an exhibition of the works which were created in the workshop.

We had a visitor, Dr. Petri Vuolaja from the Oulu University, giving a special lecture on “The Architecture and

improvement of the two blue pearls of the Baltic Sea: Stockholm and Helsinki till the industrial revolution". The translator and his guide was Dr. Rudolf Klein.

Students and teachers from the Technological Educational Institution of Athens visited our faculty on the 21st of December, 2009. Their guide was professor Erik Papp (Department of Basic Studies of Technology), who showed them around in the institution.

What They're Saying: some thoughts of our international students.

All of the faculties of Szent István University have had a lot of foreign students from all over Europe. The gradually increasing number of the visitors offers proof that the quality education and positive experiences of our former students is brought home and makes us well known in many countries throughout Europe.

It is very common that our colleagues who work for the local Erasmus office get a lot of "thank you" letters from our visiting students. Amy Sanders, an American student from the Murray State University, Kentucky, USA, is a good example of such a grateful student. She spent the spring 2009 semester here, after which she very positively evaluated her time here. She says she enjoyed her time here very much. She got a lot of professional experience and made many good friends. She evaluated the quality of education here very highly, and she was very satisfied with her teachers, for example Dr. Gábor Gyulai, professor of the Institution of Genetics and Biotechnology. Amy stated that she would like to come back again if

she could, and she says more and more American students are interested about the increasing number of possibilities our university can offer.

This semester we had a Belgian student, Pol de Schepper, who was asked to evaluate his stay here at Szent István University. He took courses in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, which he was generally satisfied with. He says he chose this university because he found interesting courses which are taught in English here. In addition to this he was interested about Hungary as well.

Pol found his professors and the atmosphere pleasant, the lessons friendly and other foreign students to be good partners both in learning and having fun.

Pol really likes Hungary; he says it is a nice country with a rich history. He was able to visit a lot of interesting places here, which was easy for him because he found travelling cheap, the nightlife interesting, and the food tasty.

Pol says he would suggest attending this university to others, because it is an institution with a kind atmosphere, and although everyone has to study hard, the professors are generally fair. He would surely come back if he could, because, as he says, he would easily feel "home" here again.