



# Erasmus: a window of opportunity

by Iryna Velykokhatko

Here is a question for you, dear reader: What do France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Norway, Romania, and Denmark all have in common? The answer might not be that obvious. All of these countries belong to LCC's network of universities for ERASMUS exchange program. The general aim of the program is to create a European higher education network and foster innovation throughout Europe. Lina Zenkiene, an Associate Dean at LCC International University, reveals more details about ERASMUS.

**Who is eligible to apply to ERASMUS program?**  
According to the official program,

EU citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply to ERASMUS program. All other criteria are listed online. Generally, participants of ERASMUS studies have to be second, third, or fourth year students. But we have another track of the program: ERASMUS for internships where first year students are allowed to apply as well. Through this program, students have a chance to have an internship in different companies and corporations in any EU country. Students interested in a job pick an area of their interest and then either contact a company on their own or ask Career Development Center for assistance. The Internship program lasts for 3 months and gives 12 credits. But what about non-EU students?

**Could they go on an exchange program?**

Non-EU students are not eligible for scholarships. But now we are thinking whether we could actually use the ERASMUS partner university network to send non-EU students to study in European universities. To do so, we would have to approach our partner universities and ask if they would accept, let's say, a Russian or Ukrainian student there. Then, if they agree, we could send a student, but the problem is that we don't have the funding to do that yet. So we are thinking about the ways to find the money.

*Continued on 2 page*

## In this edition:

- p 1 - Erasmus: a window of opportunity  
- Breaking Myths about the SFS "Monster"
- p 2 - A man of many talents  
- Erasmus: a window of opportunity
- p 3 - Erasmus impressions: Lyon, France  
- Breaking Myths about the SFS
- p 4 - Ideas WORTH Mentioning: TOMS Shoes  
- Tutoring: more than a job
- p 5 - Don't worry - Keep packing  
- In the arms of an angel
- p 6 - A Study Abroad Diary: Passion for Russia  
- The Magic Power of Leggings
- p 7 - Changing the world, one Ecuadorian school at a Time  
- Food is Good: Pumpkin Pie

# Breaking Myths about the SFS "Monster"



by Ivan Severenchuk

University years are an important stage of life for most people. Ideally, those who study at a university must cover their own expenses. How

ever, it is a very utopian claim that everyone is wealthy enough to pay for their education. For this reason, many universities provide financial aid for students who cannot cover all their tuition fees, accommodation, and other expenses. LCC is not an exception.

Every year LCC Student Financial Services (SFS) staff does their best to provide sufficient financial aid for students in need. Even though it is hard to distribute financial aid in an equitable way, the members of SFS office do everything in their power to distribute resources wisely among all LCC students who apply for financial aid.

This year we have a new Student Financial Services Director, Leila Juzvaitis. The Student Times staff has interviewed her to make the position of SFS staff clear regarding how they decide whom to give financial aid, what amount to give, and to learn about other nuances regarding financial aid.

SFS Director emphasized that there

are two major types of scholarships SFS provides: need-based and merit-based. During the interview it was mentioned that financial aid is given based on need. Unfortunately, many students take financial aid for granted, and, consequently, complain when their financial support is reduced. Students blame the SFS staff for decreasing their financial aid without any reason. This is where students fall into their own trap. SFS allocates the resources for financial aid, but the actual aid is provided by funding from sponsors.

LCC sponsors are people who believe in the university's mission and vision and are willing to contribute funds to support it.

*Continued on page 3*



# Erasmus: a window of opportunity

Continued from page 1

**Is there a chance to go on exchange program for non-EU students if they are able to cover all the traveling and living expenses by themselves, without a scholarship?**

This semester we are dealing with the first such case. What happened is we received two applications from non-EU students. We used the same selection process for them as for the ERASMUS students and one non-EU student got a recommendation to participate in the exchange program from the committee. So now the first thing to do is to get an agreement from the host university. However, there is still much to work on because non-EU students definitely have to deal with visa issues and financing. To sum up, at the moment if the non-EU student decides to participate in the program, the participant would be responsible for all the expenses.

**Do you think this project could succeed?**

Yes, because I really think that we need to look for opportunities for all the students.

**Once a non-EU student is selected to go on exchange, what happens next?**

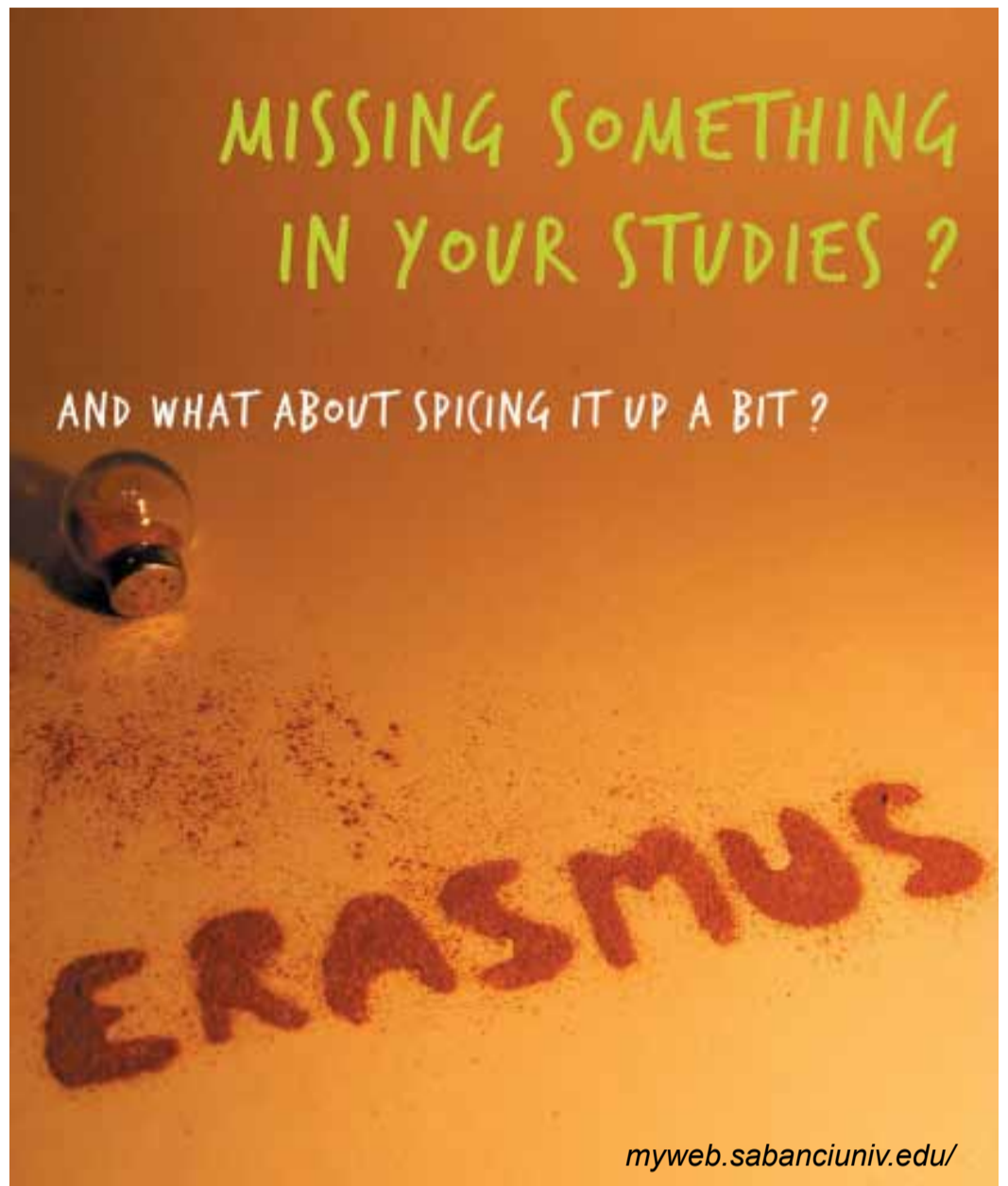
The outgoing student pays LCC's fee for 20 credits. And that's it. The student doesn't have to pay anything at the host institution. Moreover, the student is provided with a scholarship. The amount of allowance depends on the country of studying. On average a student gets 600 EUR per month. The scholarship usually covers traveling expenses, accommodation expenses, insurance and food expenses. Another interesting thing is that there is also a possibility to be a zero grant exchange student. It is actually very similar to what non-EU students might do. All the conditions stay the same for a student. The only difference is he or she does not get a scholarship.

**What do you think is the value of the exchange experience for a student?**

The exchange program gives both professional and personal gains to students. It is a cultural experience, which will inevitably lead to lots of new friendships. It opens more opportunities. We always encourage students to try something new, something unusual, something they don't have here so that they would experience something memorable. The ERASMUS program is a great chance to see the world and find new friends. It also gives an opportunity to become more indepen-

dent as well as more aware about foreign cultures and nations. If you are adventurous and curious, and if you would like to get an unforgetta-

ble experience of living and studying in a foreign country – apply for ERASMUS program and you will not regret it!



[myweb.sabanciuniv.edu/](http://myweb.sabanciuniv.edu/)

## A man of many talents



by Annah Darling

If you had the opportunity to enroll in photography, film & culture, or religious art this semester, you might have noticed the bearded fellow at the front of the classroom, Professor Jerry Holsopple. We LCC students are fortunate to have Dr. Holsopple here on his sabbatical from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. His wide range of interests and strong pursuit of creativity make him seemingly one of the most free-spirited members of the LCC staff.

Professor Holsopple completed a Bachelor's degree in Bible, Camping Recreation and Youth Ministries, received a Master's degree from Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and earned a PhD from the European Graduate School. He is a very active guy and still pursues his field of study. For example, he made his own 5.25 meter canoe (17.25 feet)! However, his artistic side seems to shine the brightest. Before he joined the EMU team, he traveled all over the world shooting footage for documentaries. These documentaries often address social justice issues; for example, he

filmed in Belfast and witnessed some of the serious political violence that occurred and filmed in Liberia during a time of civil war.

Dr. Holsopple has also been doing a lot of documenting during his stay here in Lithuania. In fact, he has taken over 10,000 photos this semester! Through his classes this semester, he is able to share his enthusiasm. He has also done a 6-week summer program where he traveled around with (LCC and EMU) students and allowed them to dabble in the art of filming and photography.

In addition, Professor Holsopple plays a variety of stringed instruments: guitar, mandolin, hurdy-gurdy (sounds similar to a bagpipe), and bouzouki (instrument often used in modern Irish music). During his time here he has been meeting with an Orthodox priest who is teaching him how to paint icons. He enjoys kebabs, red beet soup, and is fond of the Double Coffee chain. He is also intrigued by the work of Vilnius Orvidas, the Lithuanian sculptor. Professor Holsopple is certainly one-of-a-kind!



# Breaking Myths about the SFS “Monster”

Continued from page 1

According to Leila Juzvaite, most of the sponsors are from the USA and Canada. Not all sponsors are rich as students prejudice them to be, and the overall donations come not only for financial aid but also to cover total LCC expenses. Thus, only a certain percentage from donations goes towards financial aid. Thus, only a certain percentage from donations goes towards financial aid. Consequently, one of many tasks of SFS staff is to divide those funds among students who apply for financial aid. The calculations are done in a special software and are based on the overall student's family or personal income. The Board of Directors decides what percentage of the donations SFS receives each year. The SFS budget is different each year, and the amount of financial aid distributed to every student changes every year.

Who is eligible for financial aid? Everyone! As long as you are in need

of financial help and are not on probation, you will have an opportunity to have financial support from LCC sponsors. Those who are less fortunate to cover tuition, accommodation, and miscellaneous expenses will receive more in comparison to those who are in less need based on their documents. SFS tries to be as efficient and equitable in resource distribution as possible.

If you received financial aid during the first year and then found out that it was reduced for the latter years, there are some reasons for that. Students that come to LCC as freshmen have less sufficient knowledge, language skills, and time to explore opportunities for employment than the rest of the student body. Because of that freshmen cannot work in the U.S. or Greece during the summer before they come to LCC. However, when they finish the first year of studies, they are equipped with all necessary skills to pursue summer jobs in order to earn money to pay for their

university expenses. This is why the financial grant is often reduced after the freshman year.

Another important scholarship is a merit-based President's Leadership Scholarship. This award is given to freshmen who have just finished their first year of studies at LCC International University. President's Leadership Scholarship distinguishes two students every year among the rest of students by covering 6800 LT each year for the remaining 3 years of education at LCC. Those two students have to possess outstanding GPAs and show high involvement in leadership both in academic and co-curricular activities. The minimum GPA is 9.2. Once a student has applied for President's Leadership Scholarship, was chosen as one of the best students, he/she must maintain GPA above the minimum and to be actively involved and show leadership at LCC.

Life is unpredictable and sometimes

students have to take an academic leave in order to solve personal problems. In this case they still have a chance to receive financial aid when they return to LCC. If one wants to take an academic leave, one is advised to sign all papers in the Registrars office and then talk to SFS staff concerning one's financial support for the remaining years of studies at the university.

Is dealing with financial aid the only service SFS provides? Not at all! Leila Juzvaite refutes this question saying that “SFS is not only distributing loans; SFS advises students concerning financial matters. They are always welcome here”. Thereafter, SFS staff does research on all other possibilities for students to cover their university expenses. If you want to apply for any kind of scholarship outside of LCC and need help with filling out documents or finding a loan – you are always welcome to refer to SFS office for help.

## Erasmus impressions: Lyon, France



by Ieva Pikžirnyté

Little did I know... that life is full of opportunities, challenges and eye-opening experiences while being a student. It's no secret that living abroad changes and challenges human-beings only for the better. Yes, indeed. I am enjoying my life in Lyon every day.

Lyon is a great city full of absolutely polite, yet not stereotypically romantic people, full of 'boulangeries', 'pâtisseries' (bakeries), and markets, long queues, perfect infrastructure for one to live and enjoy life at its best and chill out. Each bench in the park or free space is flooded with people around 12-13:30 as everyone eats sandwiches, couscous or pasta. On

Saturdays, the centre of the city is also pumped by heaps of people as they are doing their shopping. And Sundays, holy Sundays are dedicated to family and leisure time. Early morning trips to bakeries for fresh baguettes, picnics in the parks, jogging, riding bicycles, roller-skating, walking, eating with family/friends, and drinking are typical things that French do on Sundays. They eat a lot of baguettes and sandwiches (this is their sacred tradition), yet they are fit due to their conscience to do sports. AND they party and drink a lot - may it be wine, beer or something stronger no matter what day of the week it is.

My university is close to the place where I live so I walk to school every day. Many students need to take either the bus or metro. Everything is truly convenient. The university itself is a modern, 5-floored building. There are 186 international students this year at ESDES School of Business and Management. The majority come from China, Germany, and the US. We, Lithuanians, are quite exotic because French people haven't encountered many Lithuanians before. We educate the French about Lithuania as much as we can, starting with geographical information, then going into language issues and finishing with traditions. The faculty is international as well; classes are not that demanding as at LCC due to the course load, which is not that extreme. Usually, depending on the

professor, two major works including final exam are required per semester. Group work is very popular as well, so one can have three group presentations in one week.

As Lyon is a vibrant city, a lot of things are going on every day. Just have a notion to explore, sense, feel and enjoy, and you'll be immersed into a truly colorful life. On Sundays, I usually go to a different church and every time I have an amazing

feeling being in an amiable Christian community: families are together, all people are well-dressed, their eyes are full of kindness and love. I don't think I will ever forget this life-changing experience that is still happening (so glad it is). I still need to explore new things, see new places, meet people, bring joy to others, keep positive attitude, enjoy and love life, smile, learn new materials, bake, seize the day, and constantly thank God. Life is too good!!



# Ideas WORTH Mentioning: TOMS Shoes

by Amy Danielle Early

Meet Blake Mycoskie. He is not your typical 32-year-old. To date, Blake has already started four successful businesses from the ground up. Yet, it is his most recent venture that is catching everyone's attention. What is this entrepreneur's latest idea you ask? Why, that would be the creation of TOMS Shoes: Shoes for TOMorrow Project.



Shoes for Tomorrow

On a trip to Argentina in 2006, Blake came across the need that exists worldwide for children to have shoes to protect their feet. Primarily in developing countries, children without shoes are left susceptible to many health risks, and many times are not allowed to go to school. It was this experience that inspired Blake to start a company that could supply children in need with shoes.

Based out of Santa Monica, Califor-

nia, TOMS Shoes is an organization that follows a one-to-one business model. Basically, for every pair of shoes purchased, TOMS will give a pair of shoes to a child in need. One for One.

And these aren't your average pair of shoes either. In fact, they are highly comfortable canvas slip-ons that are offered in a variety of styles and designs. And the best part is that if none of these styles call out to you, you can style your own sole, drawing on your artistic creativity to express yourself!

More than purchasing your own pair of TOMS Shoes, there is a myriad of ways that you can get involved with this awesome organization. Each year, TOMS Shoes conducts "Shoe Drops" that go to various locations worldwide to donate shoes directly to children WITH the help of volunteers. Currently, these shoe drops take place in Argentina, Ethiopia, South Africa, and multiple cities within the United States. What is amazing is that you are actually able to be a part of these shoe drops and deliver the shoes!

If this is not enough for you, there is also the opportunity to become involved more long-term through



Picture of Blake Mycoskie

TOMS' internship program. Offered each spring, summer and fall, this program is for students who are passionate about TOMS to com- live in an intern house and work with the company full-time for the semester.

But wait, that's not all! In an effort to help spread the word, TOMS has created The Vagabonds Tour (which yes, you can be a part of, too) that travels around the United States to different high school and college campuses to do promotional events, create awareness about TOMS, as well as promote its mis-

began as a simple brainstorm has become a social movement that is truly revolutionizing the way that people shop as it promotes conscientious consumerism. Think about it. When you purchase a pair of TOMS Shoes, you are making it possible for someone in need to have a pair of shoes. So what are you waiting for? Join a cause that's got sole and STEP into action with TOMS Shoes. I promise, your feet won't regret it!

To learn more concerning TOMS Shoes, check out their website at [www.tomsshoes.com](http://www.tomsshoes.com)

## Tutoring: more than a job

by Iryna Pompa

Tutoring has become very popular among LCC students recently. It both provides them with additional (often sufficient!) income and brings great experience. Get inspired and start acting! In order to give you some insight on tutoring, several students have been asked to share their encounters of teaching private English classes.

Ivanna Oleksiychuk, 4th year student from Ukraine, has been tutoring for four years already. Her tutoring experience started in Ukraine and continued here, in Lithuania. "It became my way of life, a thing that I am going to continue doing in future. I really enjoy it. Tutoring is not just regular lessons of English; it is a kind of relationship that is based on friendship and trust. It deals a lot with psychology: you are trying to find out different ways to talk to people, to be influential, to predict a person's behavior. It helped me develop my listening and observation skills," says Ivanna.

Are you interested in tutoring but still do not know where to start? Here are some tips from Ivanna: "Go and register at the Career Development

Center at LCC. It really works! They will help you to find some translations to do, as well as people for tutoring. Post an advertisement in the Russian newspapers in Klaipeda (if you do not speak Lithuanian) or just in places where you see lots of people stop. Talk to your Lithuanian friends – maybe they know people who are willing to take English classes. Right now I tutor two people: I found one thanks to CDC and another one with the help of my friend. But I got phone calls from people who found my advertisements. The main thing is to give positive feedback to people! In that way tutoring will unite you with your students."

Indeed, Career Development Center will be of great help to you. Even though not all of the students who tutor register there, they still keep track of those who do – there are about 300 people at our university tutoring currently!

Ksenija Shevtsova, an LCC graduate from Latvia, started tutoring when she was a 2nd year student. She gave lessons to different age categories of people (from 4 to 35), but her best experience was gained while working with adults. Like



some advertisements at LCC, and with the help of friends. "It is really a good experience that improves your teaching skills as well as English," says Ksenija, "In order to be come a proper tutor you need to enjoy the work you are doing, build friendships with your students, be prepared for the lessons, and make them more interesting with the help of games, dialogs, etc."

Besides generating additional income and providing you with ex-

perience of teaching and presenting material to others, tutoring will also boost your confidence. It will encourage you to find new ways to think about aspects of English you take for granted and will stimulate your creativity. You can even put it on your resume. Tutoring will also help you make friends outside LCC and will be something you can do to distract yourself from the school routine. Don't miss out on this opportunity - start tutoring TODAY!



# Don't worry - Keep packing



by *Gintarė Varankevičiūtė*

How many of LCC students, faculty and staff start fidgeting whenever they hear the alarming words such as Visa, The Migration Affairs Office or TRP cards? The traditional hassle many have to go through to stay here is often not something to look forward to. Yet, many who are part of our internationally diverse community have to face and defeat the irritating inconvenience of the inevitable migration paper work.

Although I am local and did not have to go through any paper work regarding migration, I also have a story to share with you and it begins with God's invitation to go to India to help lead an intensive Christian training course. So there I was, having nothing else but His calling and promise to bring me to India, and the Visa process, full of unexpected twists and turns

ahead of me.

Here is what the situation looked like. For a Lithuanian citizen to get an Indian Visa, the passport needs to be sent to Poland, Warsaw. There was another minor, yet complex detail to this: the Visa is only valid once it is stamped by the 'big people'. So there is no choice when the Visa starts or ends. This was not good news, because I had a certain time period to be there. That meant that my passport had to be sent as close as possible to the departure day for me to get as many days as I could have, having in mind that the Visa starts working the day my passport is stamped.

My flight was Saturday morning, about 10am, from the Vilnius airport. The passport was sent out on Wednesday and the plan was to have it back by Friday lunchtime. Meanwhile, I was packing my bags

and knew that there is nothing to worry about. Friday came and I did not get any about my Visa, so I decided to make the call myself. After a short and silent discussion on the other end of the line I heard the answer to my question about my passport's whereabouts: "It is still in Poland...by the way, when exactly are you leaving?"

My answer was: "Tomorrow, about 5 in the morning." Then they told me they would see what can be done and would call me back. After that there was no loud scream of despair, no sign of frustration and discouragement or any other kind of feeling that this is not going to work out. I continued packing my bags, knowing and trusting that God is always faithful and keeps His promises, which was my only assurance in this rather crazy situation.

They called me back and said that they will try to get to Lithuania as soon as possible and catch me on the way to Vilnius airport. Great! I finished packing my bags and got on the bus the next morning without my passport. Just like they said, the UPS car caught up with the bus I was on and handed my passport to me. A couple of hours later I was up in the air not quite sure where this adventure would take me. Yet, I was in no doubt that my Heavenly Father will always be looking after me.



## In the arms of an angel

by *Ksenia Diacenco*

Thinking about making a change? Changes are started from small, but confident steps. Opportunities to improve our community come up more often than you know. Our university offers many ways to help make a difference. LCC has always had as a purpose to make a change for the better – in people, in the community and in yourself. For the last five years, our school has been collaborating with Klaipeda Social Services to give life to an action called the Angel Tree Project, which happens around Christmas. Since the beginning, the project was about making the children of the poor families in Klaipeda feel the joy of this holiday. Angel Tree Project was inspired by the need to bring a ray of light into the lives full of difficulty of these children, who carry no fault for having a poor and miserable life. Few people know the difficulties these kids are going through. So, at least once per year, the Angel Tree Project calls for action people who are willing to show these kids love and give them hope.

Every year students volunteer to buy presents for up to 80 children who come from poor and underprivileged families. LCC receives the names of the children from Klaipeda Social Services. Then, students deliver the gifts to children personally or in groups, wishing them a Merry Christmas. In previous years, this project used to be combined with another project, the Food Drive, which included delivering food to the family as well.

However, according to LCC chaplain, Chris Hatton, this year the team wants to change the program a bit. The main idea is to establish a connection with the children, to spend some time with them in order to get to know them. The plan is to invite them to LCC campus, play games and have fun with them, and throw a real Christmas-party for them. The team is currently in the intense process of organizing and planning everything since there is not too much time left. The Angel Tree Project is open to anyone who would like to join.

There are several ways that you can be involved: you can help lead games, serve snacks, or you and a friend can together purchase a gift for a child. The children's names will be distributed in DeFehr lobby from 12:00-13:00 beginning Wednesday, November 11 and continuing until Friday, November 13. All you need to do is come by the table, select a child and then bring the gift by Dec. 5th. December 5th is the day that we will be hosting the children on our campus and the day the gifts will be distributed. If you want to be involved in leading games or serving snacks on December 5th email Chris at [chatton@lcc.lt](mailto:chatton@lcc.lt) for more information. As Chris Hatton shares from his own experience, this is a chance to get out of one's comfort zone and make a difference. There is no greater satisfaction than community service and its results. Of course, it is easier to donate money and assume that you did your part. However, money alone is not enough. Besides money, it is the

affection of other people that really warms the heart and gives encouragement to the children which endure poverty. So, be a part of the change. Angel Tree Project is one of the opportunities to make something good for the community! Many of us, LCC students, are temporary guests in the Klaipeda community, which has kindly received us here. We owe something back to it. So, you can start by this small step - go out there, see what the regular eye misses, and bring a light in the heart of those who need it badly. Our chaplain, Chris Hatton would be more than happy to share the joy of community service with you! All your ideas, help and kindness are more than welcome. Remember, changes are started from small, but assertive steps and opportunities to make them come up more often than you know. Here is one not worth missing.



# A Study Abroad Diary: Passion for Russia

by **Rebekah Briner**

On the first day of classes after a break, small talk is easy even for the most socially inept. Everybody talks about their break. As for me, I spent fall break in the most fantastic- and surreal- way imaginable: taking a trip to Russia. I felt lucky to go to such a fascinating, historic, and different country.

Even so, I was extremely intimidated. I don't speak Russian; I tend to get lost easily (especially in big cities); and I am an American which-let's face it- doesn't make me super popular when traveling abroad. I was very nervous on the overnight train that we took from Riga to Moscow, double-checking all of my documents (especially the one I wrote in the Cyrillic alphabet) and worrying about the border check. The check happened in the middle of the night. The Latvian woman sharing my compartment woke me and I sat nervously, clutching my passport. There was a brisk

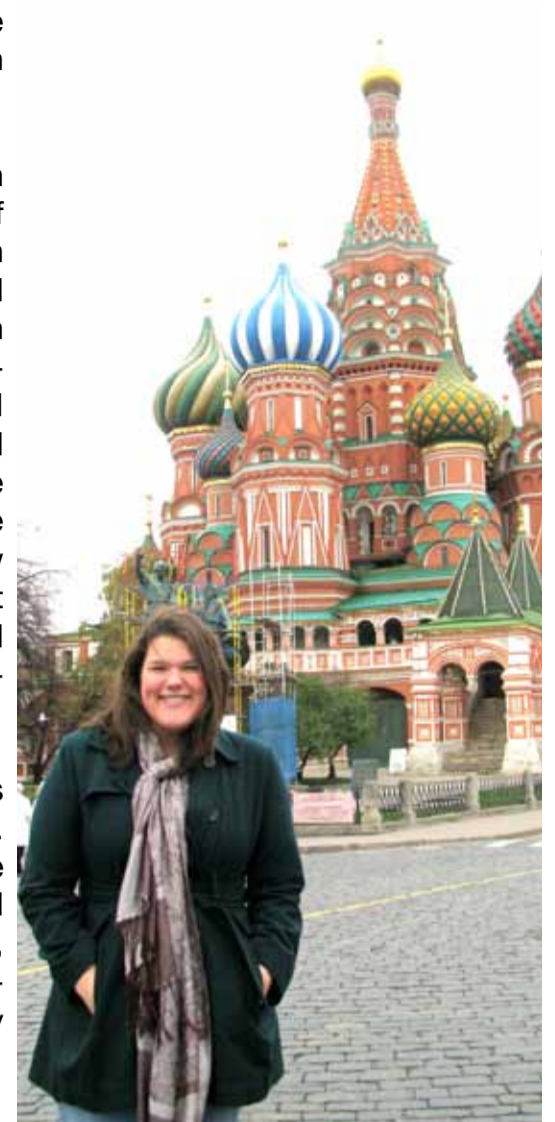
knock at the door and it slid open, revealing exactly what I expected: a scary Russian officer in uniform, with harsh features and a handgun strapped to his side. This was it. However, something happened that I had not expected. The officer smiled at me kindly. He spoke English with me. He quickly checked my documents, made sure I knew to keep the exit papers, and wished us all a good night. I even ended up petting his drug-sniffing dog before he left.

Reassured by this experience, I headed into Moscow. It was everything I had imagined when I pictured Russia: the Kremlin with guards in curious fur hats, the vast and cold Red Square paired with Lenin's mausoleum and the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral, a gorgeous monument to artistry and culture. It was hard to stop staring. Next was St. Petersburg: absolutely the most beautiful city I have ever seen. The buildings spill over the streets, each as becoming as the last and worthy

of the reflection it receives from the rivers and canals running through the city.

We went to see Swan Lake, which was stunning, and The Barber of Seville, which was frustrating (all in Russian, with no translation... and operas are not short!) I haggled in the souvenir markets to buy matreshka for my grandparents. I ate borscht for the first time and watched folk dancing; I walked the streets for hours and toured the Hermitage. I risked the Moscow metro multiple times and even went to a sauna on the last day (it's hard to say which required more courage!).

Russia is certainly different. It is cold, quiet, and surpassingly huge. But it is also, I found, a real place with unique people who warm and fill it with their kindness, culture, and really tasty beet soup. As I return to Klaipeda, I reluctantly say goodbye to Russia... for now.



## The Magic Power of Leggings

by **Tanya Rodina, an Expert in Wearing Leggings in a Modern World**

The question that we are about to discuss is very sensitive and delicate. It may even hurt some people, so please be careful. Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan were not careful with it at all, and now both of them are practically cursed by top fashion bloggers around the globe. I can continue talking without mentioning the main subject of this article but I think that the reader wouldn't appreciate it.

Leggings. The topic of this master class, kids, is leggings. You may start whining that it's boring but you know what? You are wrong! Leggings are dangerous, cruel and unsafe. Some celebrities were in love with them first, and then leggings totally ruined their reputations.

I still remember that day; it was 2005, the weather was sunny and calm. However, the huge comeback of leggings destroyed my serenity. Four years have passed but still we wear leggings, and moreover, now they are attacking us from all possible angles. For example, some designers (Kiminori Morishi, Marni) believe that leggings on men are fantastic. They even called them "meggings" showing us that it's a totally different thing from ordinary leggings that are made for women. So you, as a guy, don't have to be



ashamed to buy a pair of leggings (meggings, my bad) in a local supermarket. By the way, the USA

soldiers were wearing these comfy tight pants during the World War II as well.

Why do people like leggings so much? Economically speaking, it's cheaper just to buy tights because with leggings you also have to think about socks or appropriate shoes. Designers don't care what is cheaper for a customer. They see that the masses are still in love with them, and that is why on the spring 2010 runways ordinary leggings have gone way, way beyond basic black. If you are still sure that you want to wear leggings no matter what, it is probably not an issue whether you are a boy or a girl anymore. Still there are a couple of rules to keep in mind for both genders:

1. Leggings are not trousers, jeans or pants. They are not the same thing and you cannot treat them as substitutes wearing leggings/meggings like trousers, jeans or pants.
2. Wearing leggings with high heels will make you look like... well, a club dancer. If you are aware of that and you're okay with it, then go for it.
3. You don't have to be an exaggerated skinny toothpick to wear leggings. They work even better for girls with curves; just add a long sweater or a dress and you will look like a princess.

Eureka! Frodo Baggins was wearing leggings! Oh no, wait, he wasn't. He was wearing ordinary bad pants. What a shame!



# Changing the world, one Ecuadorian school at a Time



by **Martina Danelaite**

Worn out by 12 years of education, my spirit was already soaring in the limitless Andes. Traveling 10,000 kilometers to Ecuador wasn't simply meant for entertainment, but for sharing my knowledge with Ecuadorian kids, planting the seeds of curiosity in them, so that they could imagine a better future for their currently poor community and country and work on making it better when they grow older.

I was in a perplexed state when I found myself, an 18 year old solo female, standing in the Quito airport at 11pm. My closest friends and family thought that I would surely fall prey to non-existent kidnappers, but that couldn't scare me off from experiencing the country's life in its prime, even if it meant spending 8 hours per day at school (during my vacation time!), eating

constantly being surrounded by stray dogs. Unsanitary conditions aside, the atmosphere was exceedingly pleasant because of the easy-going people. With eternal smiles, everything is done in such a pace, that it seems as if each day is 8645 hours long.

When I arrived into the cloud village called Las Tolas, my host mom met me with a gigantic yet suspicious smile. She didn't speak any English! My survival Spanish was in order, with the help of gestures, acting, pointing, telepathy, and many other hideous methods. The minuscule village was 70 families strong and I was lucky to have lived with one of them.

I had three wild little brothers, a smiley mum, an amusing dad, and a massive dog named Pinky. I became the lost and found child they never had, and washing my hair in

a bowl of water, cooking plantains, and sweeping the cement floor became a routine to me. Besides familiarizing myself with the weird ingredients of twigs and leaves in the dinner soups, I worked at a local school, where I taught the little Ecuadorian nuggets English & Computer Science, grades 2-7, 8AM to 4PM, starting from the very basics.

I spent all of my time with the kids, and fell in love with each one of them. The very first day I was overwhelmed by their extraverted personalities, always grabbing me by the hand, endlessly talking, begging to be carried and such. I was astonished! To a four-year old, it was nothing to jump off of a 3-meter fence, or to work in the fields after school. They were capable of so much more than feeding the chickens or digging up sweet potatoes, but had no means of getting out of the cycle that has been going on for generations.

This opened my eyes to the world of illusion that I've been living in. Experiencing the true Ecuadorian ways in my host family made me swear to myself that I wouldn't be dissatisfied with my life or country ever again. With an entirely tranquil and free mind, it was easy to approach and glance at my life from another perspective. Indulging into a new culture, comprehending the spoken language, and interacting with the locale brought about an acute mental work out.

I haven't done a lot for Ecuador re-

ally, merely taught a hundred kids the English numbers, colors, and how to use Paint, but I saw that they were intrigued to see a blond person every day, and hear my stories of "Europa". Many of them got inspired to an extent of wanting to receive an education, travel, and create a better tomorrow for themselves. This trip also revolutionized my own personality and led to an extensive breakthrough in my personal philosophies of life. Even though I can still only speak Spanish, I have found myself a second home, and will return ASAP (haven't seen the Galapagos just yet)!



## Food is Good: Pumpkin Pie

by **Annah Darling**

Pumpkin pie is a traditional autumn dessert in the US. It's what my family makes every Thanksgiving at home! Everybody who hasn't tried it MUST do so! Here is how you make it.

Make your own pie crust first. You'll need a pie dish about 25 centimeters in diameter and 5 centimeters deep. You will also need a serrated knife for the pumpkin.

- Ingredients:
- Pumpkin
  - 200 grams of sugar
  - 1.5-teaspoon ground cinnamon (metric: 3.8 grams)
  - 4 grams of ground cloves/allspice stuff (gvazdikoliai)
  - 1.25 grams of ground ginger
  - 1/2-teaspoon salt
  - 4 large eggs
  - 0.7 liters of pumpkin guts
  - 1/2 liter of evaporated milk



Directions:

You will have to cook the pumpkin. However, first, rinse the dirt from the exterior, then cut it in half, scrape the insides out and get rid of the seeds and stringy stuff with a spoon.

To cook: you can either stick the halves in a large microwaveable

bowl with water and microwave them for 15 minutes, or put them in a large pot with a steamer basket in it for 20-30 minutes - whatever you can come up with using the resources you have!

After it's done cooking, use your spoon to scoop the cooked pumpkin from out of the skin (you'll need to strain it if it's too watery). If you don't have a blender at your use, mash the pumpkin with a spatula.

You'll need about 700 ml. of the cooked pumpkin and then proceed to mix the cinnamon, sugar, allspice, ginger, eggs, salt and evaporated milk all together.

Dump this mixture into your pie crust and get ready to bake: Bake at 210 °C for the first 15 minutes, then turn the temperature down to 175 °C and bake another 45 to 60 minutes. When you take it out, let it cool. Your dessert is ready! Enjoy it and feel a little bit American in a good traditional way!

Created by

**STUDENT**  
**TIMES**

Head of the Promotion team  
Vaiva Čekatauskaitė

Promotion team  
Vaiva Pelanytė  
Šarūnė Tilvikaitė  
Kate Vasiliuk

Editors  
Laura Hanson  
Erik Johnson

Editor-in-Chief  
Elvira Bakhar

