

PRIME MINISTER MEETS EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM WINNER

On October 10th, 2006 the Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha met with a group of students from SIFE University of Tirana . SIFE TU was crowned this year's SIFE European Symposium Champion in Paris, France.

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The Prime Minister congratulated the SIFE team and considered this accomplishment a great success and valuable for the potential of the Albanian students. The Prime Minister Berisha encouraged the SIFE students to extend their SIFE commitment and to continue the improvement of lives in their communities. He also promised that SIFE Albania will receive the Government's full attention and support in its initiative to change people's lives. "This prize" – said the Prime Minister – "is an honor for all Albanians and a significant step forward in improving the country's image and helping the integration of Albanian universities in the international family. This victory is not by accident, but a result of the creativity, hard work and self-determination of the Albanian students".



SIFE UT showed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for the meeting by saying that this was a motivation and valuation for their work. Students also expressed their appreciation and support for the latest government's reforms in the higher education sector. SIFE UT showed particular interest about the Government's latest initiative "Albania = 1 Euro" presented by the Prime Minister and promised to explore project opportunities in this framework to promote foreign capital investments and enhance Albania's image to the World.

For more information please visit: www.sifealbania.org.

SIFE UK HOLDS LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEEKEND IN ALTON CASTLE

During the last weekend of October, SIFE UK gathered over 80 student leaders and 8 university staff from 18 UK Universities, 7 SIFE UK Alumni and 6 companies/organisations at Alton Castle for a whole weekend of SIFE leadership training. The students developed their leadership, project management and team work skills. They also learned more about the principles of SIFE, about themselves and about their fellow students.



The Friday night came under the theme 'networking'. After being inspired by a wonderful fireworks display the students had dinner and attended a reception sponsored by Enterprise Rent A Car. On Saturday morning Jim Ineson, Executive Director of SIFE UK, welcomed the students and formally introduced the weekend. The weekend was opened with the presentation „SIFE UK—moving ahead“ by Jonathan Harper, Programme Manager SIFE UK. After this it was time for some teambuilding. The students worked with students from other universities on a variety of challenges which helped them to get to know each other in an informal atmosphere.

Afterwards the students split up into smaller groups to attend a variety of workshops. These included: *Employability*, by Ros Stephens, HSBC. *Entrepreneurship*, by Natalie Campell, NCGE. *Teaching Financial Literacy*, by Jim Riches, UNIAID. *Fundraising*, by Martin Threakall, Steven Frost and Ross MacKay. *PR*, by Laura Parker, SIE/SIFE Alumni. Enterprise Rent A Car delivered two different workshops: *Leadership and Business Ethics*. After a common session held by Kaja Otto, Programme Director, SIFE Europe, dealing with the Judging Criteria the students were ready to work on brainstorming project ideas. They split into mixed groups and took part in a 'Project Plan Challenge' which was guided by SIFE alumni. In parallel to this session, the team leaders took part in a Team leader session to exchange best practice and identify common challenges and solutions.



In the evening Jim Ineson spoke at the beginning of the dinner (Medieval Banquet), which was followed by an awe- inspiring and fantastic night; including a video installation (with photos from last year's SIFE events) in the dining hall, a disco, more networking and a lot of fun! The Sunday started with a workshop on the HSBC Financial Literacy Programme. After this the students gathered in their SIFE teams to develop an application for the HSBC Programme and sketch out their team model/strategy for the year. The weekend closed with a presentation by the SIFE UK alumni who offered their support to the teams. Most of the students did not even want to leave after this great experience! This event definitely was a great success and experience for everyone involved!

For more information please visit: www.sifeuk.org

UNILEVER HOSTS SIFE NETHERLANDS TRAINING CONFERENCE

On the 23rd October SIFE the Netherlands held its yearly Training Conference at the Unilever headquarters in Rotterdam. Almost 50 students from 8 SIFE teams attended the meeting and the overall feedback showed that the day was a big success.



Developing a project

Representatives from 8 SIFE teams attended the training. Besides the old SIFE teams, the new SIFE teams from the University of Leiden, the University College Utrecht and the University of Amsterdam were represented. During the day topics like „Building a sustainable SIFE team“ and „Develop a SIFE project“ were accompanied by best practice presentations from experienced SIFE teams. The students from the CHN Leeuwarden shared their international experience from the World Cup in Paris and gave some input on how to develop successful SIFE projects. Jonne Zwergen from SIFE Utrecht shared strategies for recruiting and institutionalizing a SIFE team. After a day of intensive work, the teams left Rotterdam with a deeper understanding of SIFE and keen on carrying out their SIFE projects for this year. It is going to be an interesting SIFE year in the Netherlands!

For more information please visit: www.sife.nl



Sharing experience

TIP OF THE MONTH

It is important to note that SIFE projects teach others, not just the SIFE team members, about one of the educational topic, found in the SIFE criteria. SIFE teams should take what they are learning and then develop projects to impact the lives of others through education.

Creating Projects

- *Brainstorm with your team members. Have them submit their ideas and keep them on file for future use.
- *Study what other SIFE Teams are doing. Look at the annual report examples on the SIFE website
- *Find out what your SIFE Team members interests and talents are. Create a survey that members can fill out describing their individual skills.
- *Analyze the needs of your community. Get in contact with your Chamber of Commerce and other organizations that serve the needs of the community.
- *Utilize the Project Resource Database on the SIFE website at http://www.sife.org/united_states/sife_teams/educational_resources.asp?ID=US&ID2=UR

Characteristics of a Good SIFE Project

- *Address a definable need.
- *Achieve a measurable impact.
- *Fulfill one of the five SIFE Overall Competition judging criteria.
- *Innovative.
- *Collaborate with others (e.g. BAB)
- *Potential for continuation and expansion in the future.



Remember

Creating a project outline for each project will help team members in the coming years to understand the projects that your team has completed in the past.

After you deciding on a project ideas teams should walk through the process of developing project outlines. Using projects outlines not only help as you develop the project, but are also great tools for project management and archiving. We highly encourage both veteran and rookie teams to implement this process for all your existing and new projects. The project outline can be found at

www.sife.org/global/global_team_resources.asp.

ALBANIA IS LAUNCHING ITS FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

This month SIFE Albania, in partnership with Partneri Shqiptar per Mikrokredi (PSHM) and Development & Training Services, Inc. was pleased to announce the PSHM Financial Literacy Program.

The 2006 program offers the availability of Financial Literacy Grants for Albanian SIFE teams.

The Financial Literacy Program seeks to improve the financial literacy of young people, aged 16 to 25, and to develop the financial skills of women entrepreneurs as well as farmers. The general context of the projects will be “assistance to become financially independent”.



Introducing PSHM

SIFE Albania also held a special Leadership Training Conference for SIFE students and their faculty advisors at Tirana International Hotel on 20th and 21st October 2006. The two training days were very intense.

During the training students were introduced to the SIFE program and criteria. Team sustainability and the project development process received particular emphasis in the presentations. To help teams improve their operations, more experienced SIFE students shared their international experiences, gave advice on how to build a sustainable SIFE Team and how to develop projects.



Jorida Tabaku

About 125 students from 9 different universities and 5 different cities took part in the training.

The first day ended with a very interesting presentation from Mr. Patrick Buckley from Lockhead Martin. Mr. Buckley, using his experience as a judge in the National Competition, showed teams how they could easily improve their presentations.



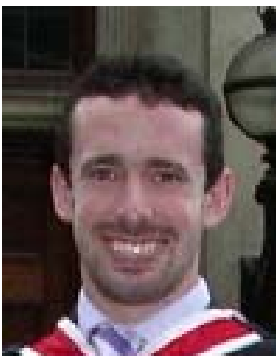
Patrick Buckley

For more information please visit: www.sifealbania.org.

SIFE ALUMNI STORIES

In this rubric we would like to start to find out what happens to SIFE students after they left their teams. This month we will feature Martin Threakall former teamleader and founder of the SIFE team at the Imperial College in London, UK who is now working for Deloitte in Management Consultancy and Deborah Lowe, former member of SIFE Liverpool who is currently working at KPMG.

Martin graduated in 2005 after successfully finishing his studies in Civil Engineering. Right now he is a Strategy and Operation Analyst at Deloitte MCS.



What was your favourite part of your SIFE experience?

Meeting all the other students from other teams and seeing all the things they were doing with SIFE in their unis. It was interesting to see what different routes people would take after all starting from the same place.

In what ways has your SIFE experience helped you in your personal and professional development? My involvement in SIFE taught me a lot about leading a team (and many of the associated problems) and working with others from different backgrounds. Previously my experience of working in teams was limited to working with others from the same discipline as myself. SIFE offered the opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary team with people with a wider variety of skills and range of knowledge. It was fantastic experience for my new career and has put me one step ahead of a lot of my peers.

I was also chosen for a student award by my university for my extramural activities, of which SIFE formed a significant part.

Martin has since run a bridge building project in Malawi, he has advised the Liverpool and Imperial SIFE teams, offered his advice to anyone interested in working for a consulting company and has taken on the responsibility of chairing the launch of the SIFE UK alumni committee.

Deborah graduated from Liverpool University, UK in 2004 with a degree in English and Philosophy. After that she started working in the Corporate Social Responsibility department in KPMG in London.



What was your favourite part of your SIFE experience?

Learning how to operate in the corporate world, meeting the other team members, feeling like my entrepreneurial spirit was being nurtured, having the chance to demonstrate all the work we had been doing in that environment, building my confidence in that arena.

In what ways has your SIFE experience helped you in your personal and professional development?

I felt it taught me a little about networking, the power of contacts, also what I liked and disliked in corporations, how to talk to the corporate sector.

Are you also a SIFE Alumni? Or do you already have SIFE Alumni on your SIFE team? Please encourage them to contact Kaja Otto (kotto@sife.org), if they would like to share their SIFE experience!

APEE ANNOUNCES SECOND ESSAY CONTEST

The Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) is conducting an essay contest on "The Benefits of a Free Market Economy," sponsored by the Templeton Foundation. This is a wonderful opportunity for SIFE students to think and write about free markets -- and the experience could be lucrative, as the top prizes are \$2500, \$2000, and \$1500. In addition, there are ten honorable mentions, worth \$250 each.

The initial contest received 150 submittals. Thus, the chances for a competent student to win a prize were excellent. We hope to increase the number and overall quality of the essays, but the chances remain good for a well-thought-out and carefully executed essay to win.

Your essay should be between 1000 and 2000 words. You can choose among three different topics -- the causes of prosperity, the role of ethical behavior, and whether free markets can protect the environment. The deadline for submitting essays is December 1, 2006, and the winners will be announced February 15, 2007.

Please look at the instructions at www.apee.org/essaycontest.html.

The Web site provides online links to articles that will help the students think through the issues. Keep in mind that the writer does not have to adopt the arguments in the readings but is expected to give careful consideration to the benefits of property rights and markets.

