



# SDU International Club

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

No.28 – September 2009

# September



**Don't Miss**

**"People do not have roots, they have legs"**  
(Fernando Sabater)

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 19.00**

*Stammtisch:*

*every month together!*

At "La Piazza Ristorante" (Brandt Passage 33, Odense C)

The International Club's usual meeting to enjoy the delicious Italian food, warm atmosphere and a real international table. (100kr.p/p food and beverage incl.)

**Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 14.00**

*IC: kayaking in Svendborg*

Come to have fun in the sea!

More details later on.

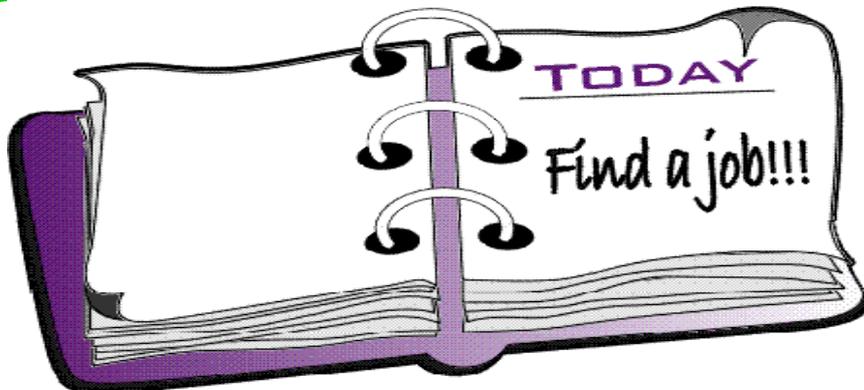
**Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9.30**

Trip to Tåsige and Langeland: a Danish paradise

**Join us for an extraordinary visit.**

Langeland creates the perfect framework for an unforgettable experience to enjoy nature, peace and quiet. From north to south, the island has many attractions, among others, many excellent bathing beaches and a beautiful and changeable landscape. (...)

→ Continued on page 2



Finding a job requires a lot of effort, especially for a non-Danish citizen. That is the reason that the International Staff Office has launched a project called "job searching for spouses". Jose M. Rojas Duran, who is the project leader, explains it like this:

**Please tell us about the idea, background, expectations and plans for this brilliant project?!**

As a foreigner living in Denmark and trying to find a job, I realized that often we do not compete on equal terms with Danish professionals, simply because recruiters may easily perceive us as more uncertain than Danish candidates with similar qualifications; given the short time that recruiters can use to review each application, when skimming our applications they may not be sure if we have a living and working permit here in Denmark, they may not be sure of the quality of our education, how we will behave in the working place, if we are willing to stay for a long period, and easily our applications end up in the pile for rejection.

Only 1% of the firms in Denmark have more than 100 employees; most of them probably are accustomed to hiring people from all over the world. The rest are not necessarily confident about hiring foreigners, particularly in the region of southern Denmark.

Another reason is that our network is very limited, and that makes it very difficult to tap into non-published job positions, or get a recommendation for a job, and networking is the number one means of finding a job in Denmark.

I am sure it is possible for a foreigner to find a job; I know many successful cases. I am sure that we have a lot of unique knowledge and experience to offer, besides, and I have found that the region of Southern Denmark is in need of highly educated professionals and very much interested in internationalization of its business life. Therefore, we have to take advantage of these opportunities, but it requires an extra effort to open spaces for us in the Danish job market, to decrease the uncertainty that recruiters may see in us, and to expand our networks.

Because of the aforementioned reasons, the job searching project focuses on preparing applications and preparing for job interviews, but also in creating awareness in firms of the potential we represent, and thus generate demand in the Danish job market for spouses, highly educated professionals, like us.

→ Continued on page 2



→ Continued from page 1

(...)The International Club offers a free trip by bus to Langeland.

More details later on.

Please sign up at [sgg@sdu.dk](mailto:sgg@sdu.dk) if you are interested in this activity.



**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10.00**

Going aboard on Odense River

A trip on the Odense River is full of memorable moments. Just get on board one of the excursion boats at Odense Aafart in Munke Mose and watch the lovely scenery glide past.

Please check

<http://www.aafart.dk/Index.asp?ID=36>

More details later on.

The goal of the project is to put together a group of job seekers, who will benefit from the workshops on applications, job interviews, etc., but who will also be very proactive in developing the network and creating positive attention, which will generate demand for us in the job market. The group also needs to be able to regenerate itself every six months or so, as new spouses will be arriving and hopefully many group members will be busy with new jobs. Remember to join us for the next informative meeting on September the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Initially, we are starting the project in the Odense campus, but if there is interest for it in the other campuses and we find the needed resources to run the project, it will be a natural step to expand it. And I hope it will be rather soon.

**How does it feel to be a volunteer, Jose?! How long have you been here already?! What's changing for you?!...**

After finishing my studies at SDU, I expected that finding a job would take a short time, but that is not the case. Some of the reasons include that, because of the economic crisis, I am competing for similar positions with people with much more experience who recently lost their jobs, being a foreigner makes it harder to pass the first screening of recruiters, as mentioned above, and, as time passes, new graduates are coming out of the universities and increasing the competition for the decreasing number of available positions of my interest. Therefore I make my profile more interesting for recruiters, had to do something, something to show achievements during this period, something that will

make my profile more interesting for recruiters, something that will take me out of my home and give me new insights, something that keeps my mind positive even when a rejection letter arrives.

At the beginning of the period as a volunteer in June, I had the opportunity to choose between taking over some tasks that are needed for the current activities of the ISO, or to come up with new ideas. As I am searching for a job and I am researching new ways to approach job searching, I decided to share those new insights with others and, hopefully, together open more spaces for international talents like us in the Danish job market.

I have the opportunity to develop my own tasks and timelines, and I get frequent useful input from Sandra (Sandra Gabriela Gonzales) and I feel that my contribution is valued. I get to practice Danish when talking with Kirsten (Kirsten Jørgensen), and that is helping me to learn to socialize at work in "the Danish way", a useful skill that cannot be learned in any book. With almost every task I get to put in practice some things I only knew in theory, meet interesting people and find new opportunities for myself. I feel much more confident now that I am responsible for something that can have such a big impact and I enjoy the pressure I put on myself to deliver results during this period.

**Thank you very much for this interesting information!**

### **CHATS IN DANISH**

*a way to get better in Danish*

Do you want to develop your communication skills in Danish?

Join us to have conversations in Danish and make a difference!!!!

Sometimes it can be really difficult to find people with whom to practice your Danish, therefore, ISO has organized this offer for you:

Talks in Danish once a week for 90 minutes in groups composed of 5 internationals and one Dane.

Improve your Danish while you have fun!

This cultural activity is free of charge

If you are interested in participating, please sign up at [sgg@sdu.dk](mailto:sgg@sdu.dk) and get more details about place and time.

### **BABY SITTING**

I offer my service as a nanny for the employees of the University of Southern Denmark.

My name is Tina Jørgensen and I'm turning 21 on 28. September 2009. I have been in Oxford, England as an Au pair – there I looked after two girls, ages 2½ and 4 months. I love children and have always looked after smaller cousins in the family.

I try to always be a step in front of the thinking of the child so no bad things happen.

I would love to give the children some good experiences that they can tell you all about when you get home.

I could be a new good friend for your child :) My service cost 110 DKK/hour.

You can contact me at 23956160.

Best regards Tina Jørgensen

