



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# SPOTLIGHT ON

ALEXANDRE LAMBIN

*Exchange Student*



Alex is a business and entrepreneurship student from Lyons, France on exchange for the Fall 2012 semester. The WKU Office of International Programs has active exchange partnerships with two universities in France: Jean Moulin - Lyon 3 University in Lyons, France and ESC Saint-Etienne in Saint-Etienne, France.

Since his arrival, OIP, with the assistance from the Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning and WKU, has guided Alex through the adjustment period of living in a new country and attending a new university abroad. Below is a recent discussion with Alex about his experiences thus far.

OIP: Alex, what made you decide to study in the United States?

Alex: The American Dream!

OIP: What does the American Dream mean to you?

Alex: The "American Dream" is commonly a set of ideals about work and social life. "Life should be better and richer for everyone" said James Adams. For me things were supposed to be easier in the US (finding a work and studying equals more liberty equals traveling and meeting people). That's MY American dream!

OIP: Before you came to the USA for the first time, what did you expect it to be like?

Alex: I only knew America thanks to American movies. [France is] not so very different, but where we differ we are very different.

OIP: What's your biggest surprise about the USA?

Alex: Really everything linked to campus. The size. The infrastructures. Things are much, much bigger than in France.

OIP: Speaking of the campus, what did you think college life in the United States would be like? Has it met your expectations?

Alex: College has really differed from my expectations. Everything is different in France. For example, the way of studying changes so much. Different methods. Lots more readings and different ways of doing classwork.

OIP: What's your favorite class?

Alex: Entrepreneurship 101! Our teacher rocks! I am also in SOCL 334, which is Security and Crime Investigation. We're solving murder mysteries like NCIS!

OIP: Have you experienced any kind of culture shock?

Alex: Ah, my first American city was New York. I experienced a culture shock because the city is so huge. Really different from what you can see in Europe.

OIP: What do you like most about living in the USA, and what was the hardest thing to get used to?

Alex: Well, I do like living on campus, but as a good "frenchy" I would say the hardest thing to get used to is definitely the food.

OIP: Are there any words and phrases in French that you can't easily come up with in English?

Alex: French looks like English, but there are a lot of words I can't find. I learn a lot of Kentucky expressions I now understand but could not translate in my own language.

OIP: You've been here about a month now. What do you miss the most about France?

Alex: FOOD! Bring me "saucisson" and REAL cheese!

OIP: Have you had a chance to interact with many Americans so far or made many friends?

Alex: Yes! I am actually a Kappa Sig, so you know all of the fraternity stuff. It's not for everybody, but I think it has been a great way for me to make friends. It's cool, I like it!

OIP: Are you writing about your experience anywhere?

Alex: Yes, actually! You can find my photoblog at [frenchyinkentucky.tumblr.com](http://frenchyinkentucky.tumblr.com) to keep up with my adventures.

OIP: Thanks, Alex!

Alex: *De rien, merci!*

