

## CBAD 402 Reflections on Bratislava

*(a collection of some of the reflections about Bratislava from trip participants)*

"I really thing that we have gotten a lot stronger. We carried our suitcases up the stairs in record time. We had a delicious traditional Slovak dinner at the hotel restaurant.... It was cool to see the process that Coke goes through to get to the final consumer. This was probably the best company visit we had. We got to wear sweet hats! The presentation at EUBA (The University of Economics in Bratislava) was short and ended with an invitation to refreshments by the group. This was the perfect school visit. We went out with the EUBA students... I feel like I related to them the most of the students we have met on this trip.... I am getting used to traveling. It amazes me how modern Bratislava is compared to a lot of the other places we have been. I loved the hotel!"

"It seems like the Slovak people are similar to the Americans in a lot of ways, such as the need to greet people when you make eye contact, and also shaking hands. But I found that they (nor the Germans) are punctual. We always seemed to be the ones on time, not the Slovaks or the Germans!"

"... a very somber and socialistic atmosphere."

"Dr. Damonte hosted a typical Slovak dinner, which was delicious. Over dinner we had a chance to talk about our group's experiences in Munich and the other group's experiences in Prague."

"Overall I think that the Slovaks have a good grasp of how to engage in business relations in the most effective way possible."

"The presentation at the Coca Cola plant was great and the tour o the facility was very interesting... I was surprised to see so few people at the manufacturing site. It was amazing to see that almost all the work was done by machines and computers... It was also amazing to see how the plastic bottles [for 1 and 2 liter drinks] were made from plastic tubes."

"We got a chance to talk to some students from the University of Economics and get a feel for what it is like to be a student at that university. We also had a presentation about Slovakia and the school, but unfortunately they were rather monotone and I got more from the discussions with the students.... All of them seemed optimistic about their future and the future of Slovakia."

"One thing that I found was that it was harder to understand [people speaking English]. The train ride to Bratislava was beautiful with all the mountains and countryside, but Bratislava is a little too industrial for me. Slovakia seems like a perfect area to expand business to since it is fairly central location and a very smart choice economically. I learned [from the EUBA students] that they start English (or another foreign language) very early, but that the classes and professors available don't make it easy for students to practice the language."

"Bratislava is definitely a new and up and coming city in transition."

